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Volume 78, No. 122 ©SS 2019

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2019

\$1.00



Rodong Sinmun

This image released Thursday by North Korea's state-run newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, purports to show a submarine-launched ballistic missile test from the previous day.

North Korea confirms test of sub-based ballistic missile

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea confirmed Thursday that it successfully test-fired a new submarine-launched ballistic missile just days before the communist state is due to resume nuclear talks with the U.S.

The Pukguksong-3 missile was launched "in vertical mode" Wednesday from the water near the eastern city of Wonsan, the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported.

"The test-firing scientifically and technically confirmed the key tactical and technical indexes of the newly designed ballistic missile and had no adverse impact on the security of neighboring countries," KCNA said.

It didn't provide more details, but South Korean officials said the missile flew 280 miles and reached an altitude of 565 miles before crashing into the sea off the eastern coast.

SEE MISSILE ON PAGE 4

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IRAQ

Crackdown and chaos



HADI MIZBAN/AP

An anti-government protester flashes the victory sign during a demonstration in Baghdad on Thursday. Iraqi security forces fired live bullets into the air and used tear gas against a few hundred protesters after a curfew was announced in the Iraqi capital.

Baghdad under curfew; violent anti-government rallies rage on

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi medical official said at least six protesters were shot and killed in the southern city of Nasiriyah, south of the capital, Baghdad, during anti-government rallies Thursday.

The official told The Associated Press the bodies of the protesters were taken to the local hospital after sunset. The protesters had defied a curfew imposed in the city, about 200 miles southeast of Baghdad. Protests have spread in Baghdad and towns and

cities to the south since Tuesday. The new violence brings the death toll to 31, including 10 killed Thursday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to brief the media.

The protesters have rallied behind calls to unseat the government, accusing it of corruption and failure to address deepening economic malaise. The security forces have responded with live ammunition, tear gas and water cannons while authorities cut the internet, which protesters had used to organize.

Iraqi security forces imposed a round-

the-clock curfew in Baghdad and fired live rounds and tear gas on Thursday to disperse anti-government protests that have gripped the country.

In a desperate attempt to quell the demonstrations, which were spontaneous and mostly spurred by woes over deteriorating economy and lack of jobs and services.

Before dawn, explosions were heard inside Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, home to government offices and foreign embassies.

SEE CHAOS ON PAGE 3

MILITARY

Army's maligned UCP uniforms quietly retired

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army's green-blue-gray Universal Camouflage Pattern, once touted as a do-it-all uniform concealment design, is officially dead.

The Army's wear-out date for UCP-schemed combat uniforms came Monday after a yearslong transition period designed to allow soldiers to shift slowly to the brown-and-green Operational Camouflage Pattern that the service chose in 2014 as its standard pattern. As of Tuesday, soldiers must wear the OCP uniform.

In reality, the UCP design — originally meant for urban, desert and wooded battlefields but ultimately scorned as virtually useless in more environments — had largely disappeared in recent years from major Army posts and within the halls of the Pentagon as the OCP design proved more popular and more effective in the field. Last year, the Air Force announced it would also adopt the Operational Camouflage Pattern as its standard combat uniform.

The deadline for soldiers to



CYNTHIA DE LEON/U.S. Navy

Two soldiers on the right wear the green-blue-gray Universal Camouflage Pattern during an exercise in Hawaii in 2017.

switch camouflage seemed to pass largely unnoticed at the Pentagon, where some soldiers said they had not realized the UCP had still been authorized through Monday. Others said they were aware of the Monday deadline but they had long ago retired their UCP gear.

Elsewhere, some leaders issued reminders — just in case.

"Don't be the soldier in this (UCP) uniform tomorrow," Command Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Coffey, the 3rd Infantry Division's senior enlisted soldier at Fort Stewart, Ga., warned his troops in a Facebook comment posted over the weekend.

Some soldiers celebrated. Five members of the 3rd Infantry Division's band dusted off their UCP duds to pose together in them on

final time for a photo for their unit's Facebook page.

Ultimately, the Universal Camouflage Pattern, chosen by Army brass in 2004 following an extensive camouflage study, was probably best fit for band members or other soldiers who rarely ventured into combat zones.

The pattern was supposed to be useful in multiple combat situations from the mountains of east Afghanistan to the deserts and cities across Iraq, where soldiers had previously been issued separate woodland and desert camouflage pattern uniforms. Army leaders later conceded the pattern had not been properly tested, even as the service spent some \$5 billion to develop its unique camouflage.

In 2010, fearing soldiers in UCP



At Fort Stewart, Ga., five members of the 3rd Infantry Division's band dusted off their UCP duds to pose together in them on final time for a photo for their unit's Facebook page. The Army's wear-out date for UCP-schemed combat uniforms came Monday.

form for the Army came as the Navy on Monday phased out its equally maligned blue-gray Type I Navy Working Uniform, better known as "blueberries."

On Facebook, commenters lambasted the Army's old pattern and questioned the decision of service leaders to adopt it in the first place.

"The only thing that the (UCP) camo pattern on the [Army Combat Uniform] ever blended with was gravel," one commenter wrote Monday on the Army's 10th Mountain Division's Facebook page.

Added another, bluntly: "Worst pattern ever."

The end of the UCP design uni-

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Correction

An Oct. 3 story about a power outage at Aviano Air Base misstated the rank of Maj. Sarah D.A. Babcock, 31st Fighter Wing spokeswoman. The story also should have said Babcock, not all officials, was unaware of the cause of the latest power cut.

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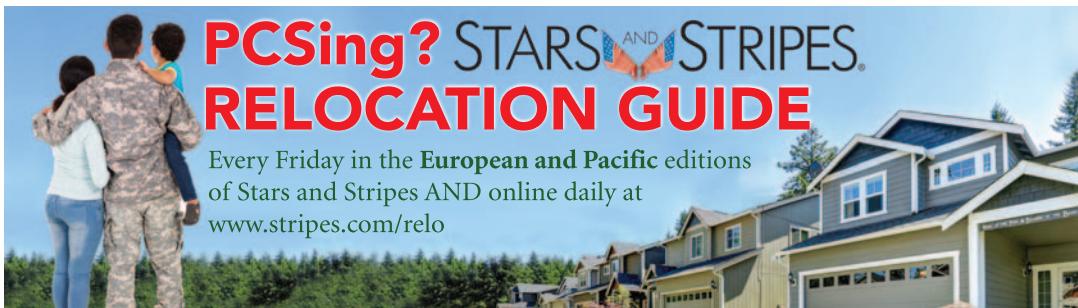
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WAR/MILITARY

Coast Guardsman pleads guilty to gun, drug crimes

Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. — A Coast Guard lieutenant accused of stockpiling weapons and targeting Supreme Court justices, prominent Democrats and TV journalists pleaded guilty on Thursday to gun and drug charges.

Christopher Hasson's guilty plea to all four of the counts he faced resolves a case in which federal prosecutors called him a self-described white nationalist and domestic terrorist intent on carrying out mass killings.

But prosecutors didn't file any terrorism-related charges against Hasson, who was arrested in February. With his plea, the former Marine now faces up to 31 years in prison. His sentencing is set for Jan. 31.

Two of the four counts in Hasson's indictment charged him with illegally possessing unregistered and unauthorized silencers. He also was charged with possession of a firearm by an unlawful user or adduct of a controlled substance, and illegal possession of tramadol, an opioid painkiller.

Prosecutors claimed Hasson drew up what appeared to be a computer spreadsheet hit list that included House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and Democratic presidential hopeful Sens. Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker and Kamala Harris. Several network TV journalists — MSNBC's Chris Hayes and Joe Scarborough and CNN's Chris Cuomo and Van Jones — also were mentioned.

Hasson also targeted two Su-

preme Court justices and two social media company executives and searched online for their home addresses in March 2018, within minutes of searching firearm sales websites, according to prosecutors.

In a February court filing, prosecutors said Hasson "intends to murder innocent civilians on a scale rarely seen in this country." They also said he has espoused extremist views for years and drafted an email in which he said he was "dreaming of a way to kill almost every last person on the earth."

Investigators found 15 guns, including seven rifles, and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition at Hasson's basement apartment in Silver Spring, Md. He researched how to make homemade bombs and mortars, studied sniper training and used his government computer to search for information about Nazis and Adolf Hitler, prosecutors said.

Last month, a federal judge refused to dismiss the gun charges against Hasson, who has been held in custody since his arrest.

Assistant federal public defender Liz Oyer has said prosecutors found no evidence to back up terrorism allegations.

Oyer said Thursday that the case has been "mischaracterized and sensationalized."

Hasson worked at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington on a program to acquire advanced new cutters for the agency. He has remained on active duty pending the outcome of the criminal case.

Pakistan, Afghan Taliban seek peace talks restart

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Senior Afghan Taliban leaders and Pakistani officials on Thursday called for the resumption of talks on a peaceful resolution to the war in Afghanistan.

The appeal, made during a rare Taliban visit to Islamabad, comes after months-long U.S.-Taliban negotiations collapsed in September and President Donald Trump announced the talks with the insurgents were "dead."

The timing of the Taliban visit — which coincided with that of Washington's special peace envoy for Afghanistan, who was also in Islamabad on Thursday for "consultations" with Pakistani officials — appears to indicate Pakistan is seeking to help restart the talks.

In a statement, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said both sides agreed Thursday that the peace process should be resumed as soon as possible.

Also on Thursday, Trump was asked the White House about Pakistani officials calling for the talks to resume. The president was noncommittal about whether they would, saying the Taliban's standing with him had not yet been restored from when he called off the talks amid a surge in violence that he claimed the Taliban had orchestrated to increase their leverage at the negotiating table.

"We have a real problem," Trump said, without elaborating. "We've been hitting the Taliban very, very hard. As far as I am concerned, they still haven't recovered from killing 12 people — one who happened to be a great American soldier from Puerto Rico. They still have not recovered (their standing) and they probably never will."

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with the 12-member Taliban team, headed by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a co-founder of the Taliban and head of their political office in Qatar: The Pakistani side also included intelligence chief Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed, foreign secretary Sohail Mahmood and others.

TV footage showed Hameed

hugging members of the Taliban delegation, including Baradar, who was released in 2018, years after he was detained in a joint operation carried out by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and the CIA. He was released to facilitate the peace process in Afghanistan.

Earlier, in a Foreign Ministry statement, Qureshi "reiterated Pakistan's commitment and continued strong support" for all efforts aimed at resolving the conflict in Afghanistan.

Qureshi told reporters the Taliban would meet with U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, though he didn't say when such a meeting would take place.

Chaos: Iraq warns Iran about possible retaliation against US forces in the country

FROM FRONT PAGE

The U.S.-led coalition said an investigation is underway, adding that no coalition forces or assets were hit.

Hundreds have been wounded since the violence and clashes between security forces and anti-government demonstrators first erupted.

Twelve people were killed late Wednesday in the southern cities of Nasiriyah, Kut and Amara. The dead were protesters and one policeman, according to security officials.

Iraq's state news agency said Parliament Speaker Mohammed al-Halbusi invited representatives of the protesters to come to the parliament building to discuss their demands.

The protests, concentrated in Baghdad and in predominantly Shiite areas of southern Iraq, are mostly spontaneous and without political leadership, staged by disenchanted youth demanding jobs, improved services, such as electricity and water, and an end



Anti-government protesters confront an Iraqi soldier from the Federal Police Rapid Response Forces before they burn the armored vehicle, during a demonstration in Baghdad on Thursday.

to Iraq's endemic corruption.

They have organized the protests on social media and have gradually escalated their demands and now want the government to resign. No political party

has so far joined the campaign.

The demonstrations and the unrest are the most serious challenge to Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi's year-old government, which has been caught in

the middle of U.S.-Iran tensions in the Middle East. Iraq is allied with both countries and hosts thousands of U.S. troops, as well as powerful paramilitary forces allied with Iran.

Also Thursday, Iraq's foreign ministry summoned Iran's ambassador to Baghdad to denounce his threat that Tehran would retaliate to an American attack anywhere in the world, including in Iraq. A ministry statement said Iraqi official Abdul-Karim Hashemi told Iran's envoy, Iraj Masjedi, that American troops are in Iraq at the request of the Iraqi government and that Iraq will not accept becoming an arena for international conflicts.

Masjedi recently told Iraq's Dilja TV that if the Americans attack Iran, Tehran "will strike back anywhere, including (in) Iraq."

The Baghdad curfew was announced early Thursday following a meeting of Iraq's top leaders to discuss anti-government protests that have engulfed the country. Authorities say it ex-

plodes travelers to and from the Baghdad airport and Iraqi Airways said flights were operating as scheduled.

Baaghdad's main streets were largely deserted Thursday morning. In central Tahrir Square, hundreds of young protesters were gathered, and police fired tear gas canisters every now and then.

When the demonstrators tried to reach a nearby bridge that leads to the Green Zone on Thursday morning, Iraqi security forces started shooting above the crowd from automatic rifles and also fired tear gas, according to an Associated Press cameraman at the scene.

The U.S.-led coalition, which has a presence on the ground in Iraq, issued a statement saying it is monitoring the protests and added that "we call on all sides to reduce tensions and reject violence" as the loss of life and injuries among civilians and Iraqi security forces was deeply concerning.

MILITARY

Marine charged with threats is arraigned

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — A Marine Corps private deferred entering a plea at his arraignment Wednesday in Hawaii, where he faces charges that include making threats and attempting to bring concealed weapons onto a Nebraska Air Force base in May.

Pfc. Ali Al-kazahg also deferred until later a choice of trial by jury or judge during the brief hearing at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, where he is being held and where

he has been stationed since August 2018.

Lt. Col. Wilber Lee, the judge in the case, set a weeklong trial to begin Jan. 24.

Al-kazahg has been charged with carrying a concealed weapon, communicating threats, possession of modified firearms and unlawful firearms modifications, unauthorized absence, violation of a law of general regulation and dereliction of duty, fraudulent enlistment and making a false official statement.

Al-kazahg, an American citizen and native of Nebraska born to Iraqi refugees, was arrested May 31 after being stopped

by gate guards at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha.

According to the Omaha World-Herald newspaper, Al-kazahg, who was home on leave at the time of the arrest, was stopped because his name appeared on a law enforcement watchlist.

Al-kazahg's name had appeared on a "be on the lookout" bulletin, according to the World-Herald, which obtained a copy.

The newspaper reported that he was listed for allegedly telling another Marine he would "shoot up the battalion, starting at the barracks" if he received discipline

for misconduct.

He also mentioned specific Marines as targets, the newspaper said.

A search of Al-kazahg's car yielded two semi-automatic rifles, a handgun, a silencer and a bump stock, which is used on semi-automatic weapons to create rapid firing in the fashion of a machine gun, the newspaper reported.

With few exceptions, military personnel are not allowed to bring personally owned weapons onto military installations.

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Missile: Launch threatens to raise tensions ahead of US, N. Korea talks

FROM FRONT PAGE

Experts said it was likely fired from an underwater barge and not a submarine.

David Wright, of the Union of Concerned Scientists, noted that the missile had been launched at an angle, which curbed the distance it traveled.

"If flown on a standard trajectory with the same payload, that missile would have a maximum range of about 1,900 km (1,200 miles)," he said in a blog post. "This would classify that missile as medium range."

The launch threatened to raise tensions as Washington and Pyongyang planned to resume talks over the North's nuclear weapons program this weekend. No location has been announced.

President Donald Trump has dismissed past launches as routine because they involved short-range missiles. He had no immediate comment on Wednesday's test, which was the first underwater launch in three years.

The State Department called on the North "to refrain from provocations, abide by their obligations under U.N. Security Council resolutions, and remain engaged in substantive and sustained negotiations to do their part to ensure peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and achieve denuclearization."



KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, KOREA NEWS SERVICE/AP

An underwater-launched missile lifts off in the waters off North Korea's eastern coastal town of Wonsan. North Korea fired a ballistic missile from the sea on Wednesday, South Korea's military said.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un apparently didn't attend the launch as he has done in the past, but he sent "warm congratulations" to the national defense scientific research units who conducted it, KCNA reported.

The news agency said the launch was "of great significance

as it ushered in a new phase in containing the outside forces' threat to [North Korea]" and further bolstered its "military muscle for self-defense."

Experts say the communist state is likely trying to project strength ahead of new negotiations to wring concessions from

Washington. The weapons tests also show that the North has continued to develop its weapons programs as talks have stalled.

North Korea's nuclear submarine program is considered especially threatening because submersible weapons are harder to detect in advance and have a broader range.

"If the launch is successful, we could say that North Korea has developed a missile that could threaten the United States," said Moon Keun Sik, of the Korea Defense and Security Forum. "Pyongyang is trying to turn the tables in its favor before the bargaining begins with the U.S."

Previous talks broke down after Trump and Kim failed to reach agreement during their second summit in February in Vietnam.

The two sides deadlocked over the North's demands for extensive sanctions relief in exchange for steps toward denuclearization, primarily an offer to shut down its main nuclear facility at Yongbyon.

The Trump administration insisted it will maintain economic pressure until full denuclearization is achieved. The North called on the United States to offer a new approach by the end of the year.

The two leaders, who insist they maintain a great friendship, agreed to resume working-level talks during an impromptu meet-

ing on June 30 on the Korean border.

Senior North Korean diplomat Choe Son Hui said Tuesday that delegates from her country "are ready" to begin working-level negotiations.

The two countries agreed to have preliminary contact on Friday and to hold working-level talks on Saturday, she said.

"It is my expectation that the working-level negotiations would accelerate the positive development of DPRK-U.S. relations," she added, using the initials for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report. gamel.kim@stripes.com
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VA, DOJ join forces to crack down on health care fraud

Stars and Stripes

The departments of Veterans Affairs and Justice are teaming up to combat health care fraud as the VA expands a Medicare-like program that allows veterans to seek care at private facilities in the community at taxpayer expense, officials said.

The VA's Office of Inspector General is joining forces with the Justice Department's criminal division to form an interagency task force that will focus on that program, the government said in a statement Tuesday.

The new partnership "will aggressively target fraud in the VA's expanding health care programs," said Assistant Attorney General Brian A. Benczkowski,

of the DOJ's criminal division.

Legislation passed last year allows veterans to receive care from approved providers from outside the VA's more than 1,200 medical facilities. As with Medicare, the providers submit claims to the government for payment for their services.

In announcing the task force, the VA IG released a list of more than a dozen cases in which the office partnered with the Justice Department to bring charges or obtain guilty pleas in recent months, including one involving a former chief of pathology for the VA in Arkansas accused of involuntary manslaughter, another in which VA claims processors are accused of collecting overtime

pay for hours not worked, and several cases involving fraudulent prescriptions.

Federal investigators from the FBI, IRS, Department of Health and Human Services IG and other agencies are investigating the cases and the DOJ criminal division's fraud section is prosecuting them, the statement said.

"This Task Force sends a clear message to anyone considering committing health care fraud at VA — we will protect our veterans' health care system at all costs," VA IG Michael J. Missal said in the statement.

Modeled on the DOJ's Medicare Fraud Strike Force, the task force will include an attorney from the VA IG's office assigned

to the fraud section as a special prosecutor in its health care fraud unit.

A partnership between Justice, the U.S. Attorney's Offices, the FBI and the Department of Health and Human Services IG formed in 2007, the Medicare fraud strike force has charged more than 4,200 defendants with defrauding the Medicare of a total of around \$19 billion.

"This is one of those rare opportunities in government where we can be proactive and get ahead of the curve by partnering with the Fraud Section and leveraging its proven strategies for combating fraud," said Missal.

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MILITARY

Misawa Air Base maintenance commander fired

Stars and Stripes

The 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base in northeastern Japan relieved the commander of its maintenance squadron on Monday, according to a media report.

Lt. Col. Jason Moehle, who led the 35th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, maintainers of the F-16 Wild Weasel aircraft, was relieved by 35th Maintenance Group commander Col. Rognald

Christensen, who cited a loss of confidence in Moehle's ability to command, the Air Force Times reported Wednesday.

The Times quoted a statement from wing commander Col. Christopher Struve.

"A decision of this magnitude is never easy to make, but it's the right decision in ensuring we're maintaining the highest standards of leadership in the 35th Fighter Wing's ranks," Struve said, according to the report.

Moehle assumed command of the maintenance squadron in June 2018, the report said.

As a major in March 2016, Moehle temporarily took over the 1st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Langley, Va., when its commander at the time, Lt. Col. Ivan Pennington, was relieved by the 1st Wing commander for the same reason, lack of confidence.

The 1st Fighter Wing flies the F-22 Raptor advanced stealth fighter.

At Misawa, Moehle had responsibility for keeping the 44 F-16CM fighters ready to fly. Their role in combat is to clear a path for friendly aircraft by defeating opposing anti-air missiles and other defenses. The Wild Weasels typically arrive early during an air attack.

Moehle as a captain graduated in December 2011 from the U.S. Air Force Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Officer

School, Combat Support Course, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., according to the Air Force.

He entered the service in 2004 and was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, according to the Air Force Times. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal, the report said.

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Air Force Academy's longest-serving falcon mascot, Aurora, passes away

BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL
Stars and Stripes

A rare falcon who served as the Air Force Academy's mascot for 23 years has died, officials said.

Aurora, the academy's longest-serving mascot, died Wednesday, the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based service academy said in a statement.

"Her impact on the nearly 30 class years of cadet falconers and Falconry Team support staff cannot be overstated," the statement

said. "She was a feisty, spirited bird who commanded respect. We all feel her loss deeply."

Aurora was a white phase gyrfalcon, a species that is "extremely rare in the wild and whose beauty will take your breath away," the falconry page of the academy's website says.

Only 3% of all falcons are gyrfalcons, the largest species of the raptors, and of those, only 1% are white, the academy said.

Trained and handled by cadets, Aurora often appeared at sports

and other events at the academy and traveled to away games with Air Force teams.

In November last year, she was injured when West Point cadets kidnapped her in a prank before the annual Air Force-Army football game. The U.S. Military Academy apologized for what it called an "unfortunate incident," and Aurora was back up and flying around her pen within days of returning to Colorado.

Aurora met "tens of thousands of people and inspired multiple



U.S. Air Force

Then-Cadet 1st Class Anthony Cannone, a U.S. Air Force Academy falconer, works with Aurora, a rare white phase gyrfalcon, in 2014. Aurora died Wednesday.

generations of cadets," said a post on the Glorious Old Zoo — a nickname for the academy — Facebook page.

"Aurora was smart, fierce, and majestic. She represented the

fighting spirit of the wing, and she was part of our team," it said. "We will sorely miss her."

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MILITARY

Wolters backs more Javelins for Ukraine

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The United States should provide more Javelin missiles to Ukraine's military as it battles pro-Russian forces in the eastern region of the country, the top American military commander for U.S. and NATO forces in Europe said Thursday.

The U.S. military has trained enough Ukrainian soldiers to use the shoulder-fired, anti-tank missiles that America should provide more of the defensive weapons, Air Force Gen. Tod Wolters told reporters at the Pentagon. Ukraine has said the missiles have been critical in its efforts to fend off Russia-backed forces in the Donbass Region, where the war has continued since Russia annexed the nearby Crimea region from Ukraine in 2014.

"Yeah, I think more of those would probably help," he said. "Right now, it is my military advice that I think we should go forward with that because of the positive outcome — because they are better able to [defend] their sovereign territory."

Javelins are man-portable missiles capable of destroying heavily armored vehicles. They are touted as "fire and forget" missiles, meaning after the operator locks

onto a target and fires, the missile guides itself to that target. Last year, the United States provided 200 Javelin missiles and 37 launchers to Ukraine.

Wolters' comments Thursday came as the Javelin missile has gained attention in recent days amid an impeachment inquiry launched by House Democrats over President Donald Trump's interactions with Ukraine's president.

In a rough transcript of a July 25 phone call between the two leaders released last week by the White House, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told Trump his country was ready to purchase more Javelins.

"I would like you to do us a favor though because our country has been through a lot and Ukraine knows a lot about it," Trump responded, according to the rough transcript. Trump continued to ask Zelenskiy to investigate U.S. political issues, including former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden. The elder Biden is among the frontrunners for the Democratic nomination for president in the 2020 election.

That conversation came just about one week after Trump ordered \$250 million in military aid to Ukraine withheld by the Pentagon and State Department. Demo-

cratic leaders in the House have said their inquiry will determine whether Trump withheld that aid to pressure Ukraine to investigate his political rivals. Trump has denied that charge and insisted he acted appropriately in the July phone call.

On Thursday, Jonathan Hoffman, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, described the hold as "a brief pause" and said the bulk of that aid has now been delivered to Ukraine. The remainder was expected to be released by next week, he said.

The aid included money for training operations and nonlethal military gear, but it did not include funds for Javelin missiles.

Hoffman said his understanding was the aid, first announced by the Pentagon in June, was withheld amid corruption concerns in Ukraine.

However, he declined to discuss who made the decision to withhold the funding or the timing of that decision.

"I'm not going to be able to get into that," he told reporters during a briefing at the Pentagon.

Wolters said Thursday that Javelin missiles have been critical to Ukraine's defense and have boosted morale among U.S.-trained Ukrainian soldiers.

"All-in-all, when it's all said and done, you see a little bit of a bounce in the step

of the Ukrainian soldier when he or she has had the opportunity to embrace this system," he said of the Javelin. "It allows them to better defend their turf."

Bloomberg News reported late Wednesday that the State Department had approved the sale of 150 new Javelin missiles and two launchers for \$39 million to Ukraine.

The State Department, as of Thursday, had not announced the sale, which must be approved by Congress, and Hoffman declined to comment on it.

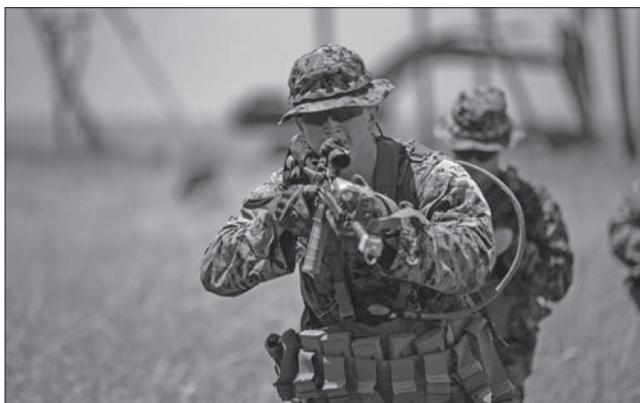
Separately, Hoffman announced the Defense Department General Council on Thursday instructed defense officials to provide the council all documents and records related to Pentagon activities in Ukraine for cataloging and review.

The step was made to ensure the records would be available if requested by Congress or inspectors general, he said. But the records had not yet been requested by those entities, he said.

"It seems to be a fairly routine but proactive measure that we are taking," Hoffman said, adding he was unable to provide additional information on the subject.

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CHRISTINE PHELPS/U.S. Marine Corps

Ambush demonstration

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Conner Travis, a rifleman with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment currently assigned to 3rd Marine Division, demonstrates how they conduct an ambush to the members of the Malaysian Armed Forces during Tiger Strike 2019.

Colonel vows scrutiny of housing complaints

Associated Press

BELLEVUE, Neb. — An Air Force colonel said he and other officials are paying close attention to resident complaints about living conditions and repairs at off-base, privatized housing for personnel at Offutt Air Force Base just south of Omaha.

Col. Gavin Marks, commander of the 55th Wing at Offutt, on Tuesday told residents at a town hall meeting at a Bellevue school that he's set up a new hotline to handle complaints.

The Omaha World-Herald reported that local

complaints about mold, shoddy construction, slow repairs and street problems at the Rising View neighborhood west of the base echo those from other bases. Those complaints were aired at congressional hearings in Washington earlier this year.

The Pentagon subsequently ordered inspections of every privatized military home. At Offutt, inspectors found 96 homes with what inspectors described as "health and safety" violations, such as mold or lead paint.

The Rising View leasing manager said all of the violations have been rectified.

Female airman killed in double murder and suicide

By NEIL FOTRE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A female airman from F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming was shot and killed early Tuesday morning in an apparent double murder and suicide, base officials said.

Airman Abigail M. Smith, 24, of Cheyenne, was identified by base officials as one of the people found dead in the shooting that occurred about midnight off-base. Michael Tolar, 44, and Brian Perkins, 46, both from Cheyenne, were also found dead.

The investigation by the Cheyenne Police Department has determined Smith and Tolar met with Perkins in the parking lot of Romero Park, which is about 3 miles from F.E. Warren AFB. Police said Perkins shot Smith and Tolar and then shot himself. Police did not provide further details.

"The [Cheyenne Police De-

partment] is considering personal relationships as a motivating factor," according to a statement posted on the department's Facebook page. The case remains under investigation, police said.

F.E. Warren AFB is one of three strategic intercontinental ballistic missile bases in the United States. It is home to the 90th Missile Wing and 20th Air Force, which commands all the ICBMs in the service. The 90th Missile Wing operates 150 ICBMs on constant alert. The base is approximately 3 miles west of Cheyenne, the state capital.

"Our deepest condolences go to the family and friends of those affected by this incident," said Col Peter M. Bonetti, commander of the 90th Missile Wing. "Airmen and families define our Air Force; they are and always will be our top priority. Losing one too many."

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USS Oregon christening set

Associated Press

GROTON, Conn. — When the USS Oregon, the Navy's newest attack submarine, is christened this weekend, it will be splashed with liquids from Oregon.

The Pentagon says the submarine will be christened Saturday at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton.

Rep. Greg Walden, an Oregon Republican, said he will attend as keynote speaker.

He said the submarine will be

christened with water from Crater Lake and wine from Oregon.

Oregon, a Virginia-class submarine, is the third U.S. Navy ship to honor the state.

Virginia-class submarines are built to conduct anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface ship warfare; strike warfare; special operations force support; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; irregular warfare; and mine warfare missions. The Pentagon says they have stealth, endurance, mobility and firepower.

MILITARY

Yokota chaplain gives airmen on flight line solace

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — When airmen from Yokota's 374th Maintenance Squadron want to see a chaplain, all they have to do is knock on an office door inside Hangar 15.

For the past year Chaplain (Capt.) Antonio Rigonan, 57, a Catholic priest from New York, has spent two days a week inside the largest hangar on this western Tokyo air base.

The idea is to get closer to the people who might need spiritual help or just a shoulder to lean on.

The Air Force opened a chaplain's office near the flight line at the home of U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force after three maintainers there killed themselves during a six-month span in 2016.

The move was one of several cited by the maintenance squadron's commander, Lt. Col. Kris Lamotro, during an interview Sept. 16 about things her unit is doing to prevent suicides in the ranks.

From his office window, Rigonan said on Monday had a clear view of a C-130J Super Hercules parked nearby.

It's a short walk across the hangar to a workshop where, most days, young airmen are turning wrenches to keep the C-130Js ready for action.

"When you talk with them, they become more comfortable with you," Rigonan said. "They usually request a chaplain they know when they want counseling."

Airmen seek counseling when they've been through experiences or see something that violates a core value, according to Rigonan's boss, 374th Airlift Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dale Marlowe, 51, of Newcastle, Pa.

"Most of chaplaincy is relationship issues and people trying to figure out life and stress," the Baptist minister said.

Like other Air Force units, the squadron halted its routine operations last month for a "Resilience Tactical Pause" ordered by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein to try and understand why there have been so many recent suicides in the ranks.

An Air Force spokeswoman at the Pentagon, Ann Stefanek, said suicide figures for the service are released quarterly but that the number for 2019 has increased from the 78 reported before the tactical pause. A Defense Department report last month said 63 airmen took their own lives in 2018.

The deaths at Yokota in 2016 spurred base visits by a suicide prevention support team. That led to officials adjusting hours at

recreation facilities and an on-base restaurant to cater to those on swing shifts.

However, maintenance squadron personnel said there had been other important changes, including office space for the chaplain and a counselor near their work areas.

For the past year, Rigonan has split his time between that office and Yokota's hospital. He usually shows up at work around 9 a.m. after his morning workout.

Counseling sessions can happen in the hangar or back at the chapel, he said.

Marlowe said the concept of putting chaplains with units isn't new.

"We've always been committed to connecting where people are," he said, adding that chaplains also spend time with other units at the base.

"Most of our counseling and care doesn't come out of people in the pews," Marlowe said. "They are in a healthy position in life just by being there. They are connected with people who have common values and perspectives."

Lamotro said she's focused on giving her airmen the tools they need to get help while maintaining military discipline.

"We make sure there is no stigma attached to mental health," she said.

If leaders want to change an airman's shift or make them work extra hours, Lamotro must sign off on it.

"It's not that it's never going to happen but there has to be a really good reason," she said.

Master Sgt. Eric Lundeen, 34, of Ipava, Ill., has been in the maintenance squadron since 2013. After the 2016 suicides, he said, leaders spent more time talking to airmen.

Examples of things that can put stress on an airman include selling a home back in the U.S. or caring for a sick family member. Just being in Japan can be stressful for youngsters, Lundeen said.

"You are landing them in the middle of Tokyo. They don't speak the language. They are having to figure out this new metropolitan area, and when you have the current (1 to 5 a.m. for lower enlisted troops), things like that kind of compound it and airmen chose to stay in their rooms," he said.

The squadron has organized trips, sports days and barbecues to build resiliency, Lundeen added.

The squadron's top enlisted airman, Chief Master Sgt. David Becroft, 45, of Dayton, Ohio, said solutions to airmen suicides will come from airmen rather than leaders.

He's talked to airmen about his



THON GODBOLD/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Antonio Rigonan, an Air Force chaplain stationed at Yokota Air Base, speaks with members of the 374th Maintenance Squadron on Sept. 30.

own challenges, including going through a divorce, during 24 years in the Air Force.

One of the airmen Becroft supervised tried to hang himself, he

said.

"He cut himself down with a pocket knife," he recalled. "We got him in-patient care. We got him from being despondent and

helpless to being hopeful and excited and ready to move on with his future."

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MILITARY

22 hurt in parachute training at Miss. base

Associated Press

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — At least 22 soldiers were injured as hundreds parachuted onto a Mississippi military base during a night training exercise.

U.S. Army spokesman John Pennell told WDAM-TV that the paratroopers were among 650 soldiers jumping from C-130 planes Wednesday night. Some were blown off course from their intended landing zone and into a stand of pine trees. Several became entangled in the branches and had to be rescued.

"Paratroopers from across the brigade and Camp Shelby are assisting in getting others out of the trees," Lt. Col. Matt Myer, commander of 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, wrote on the battalion's Facebook page early Thursday. "All of the accounted for jumpers are being afforded access to phones to call their loved ones."

Pennell said at least 15 of the people hurt at Camp Shelby were treated by medics and another seven were hospitalized. Staff Sgt. John Healy said none of the injuries are considered to be life-threatening.

Camp Shelby Cmdr. Col. Bobby

Ginn said the troopers belong to the 4th Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division stationed at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska.

Mississippi National Guard spokeswoman Lt. Col. Deidre Smith said soldiers continued to jump into the drop zone after the injuries, with units trying to account for their members.

"Once all soldiers have been accounted for, our goal is ultimately to continue training," Smith said in a statement. "Despite the challenges that we currently face, soldiers always place the mission first."

Smith said the base works to reduce risks associated with airborne operations, with a nearby hospital in Hattiesburg on alert and emergency vehicles on standby at Camp Shelby.

About 3,000 troops from the Alaska base are participating in monthlong training called Operation Arctic Anvil. The Mississippi base is devoted to large-scale training, with convoys of military trucks a common sight on nearby highways and military aircraft frequently seen overhead.

Pennell promised more information once a safety investigation is complete.



ALEX SKRIPICHUK/U.S. Army

A jumpmaster with 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (A), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, jumps from a mock-door of a C-130 during training Tuesday at Camp Shelby, Miss. At least 22 soldiers were injured during a night exercise that was part of the training.

Satellite images show activity around Iranian-flagged tanker

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Satellite images released Thursday show that a once-detained Iranian-flagged oil tanker sitting off the coast of Syria has been approached by a smaller Iranian tanker, an indication the ship could be preparing to transfer its cargo.

Images released by Maxar Technologies show the Jasmine alongside the Adrian Darya 1 on Wednesday, with mooring lines between them and a crane deployed on the larger vessel.

The Adrian Darya 1, formerly named the Grace 1, was detained off the British overseas territory of Gibraltar in July while carrying \$130 million in crude oil, on suspicion of breaking European Union sanctions by taking the oil to Syria. Gibraltar later released the tanker after it said Iran promised the ship wouldn't go to Syria.

The ship later sailed toward the Syrian coast, angering Britain.

The oil shipment website TankerTrackers.com said on Twitter on Tuesday that the Adrian Darya 1 was "postured in an STS (Ship-to-Ship) formation with a smaller Iranian-flagged Handymax (350K barrel capacity) tanker," the Jasmine.

It noted this was "not a confirmation of any oil transfer just yet. We'll compare imagery later."

The image it posted showed the



MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/AP

This satellite image made available Thursday by Maxar Technologies shows two Iranian-flagged tankers, the Adrian Darya 1 and the Jasmine, off the coast of Syria.

two vessels off the coast of Syria. However, the website said Wednesday it was ending its public coverage of the Iranian tanker's movements due to a tweet by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who used the image of the two tankers in a tweet of his own.

Pompeo tweeted that despite Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's promise to the UK that the #AdrianDarya1 would not deliver oil to Syria, it is now transiting oil off the Syrian coast. Will the world hold Iran accountable if this oil is delivered to Syria?"

There was no official reaction from Iranian authorities.

Tension has been high between Tehran and Washington following President Donald Trump's decision over a year ago to unilaterally pull out of a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

The U.S. has imposed sanctions that have kept Iran from selling its oil abroad and have crippled its economy.

Iran has since begun breaking terms of the deal.

The tensions have led to the seizure of ships at sea. After the seizure of the Iranian-flagged tanker off the coast of Gibraltar, Iran seized the British-flagged oil tanker Stena Impero in July as it passed through the Strait of Hormuz.

Philippine official tweets order for new protest against China

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine foreign secretary used Twitter to order the immediate filing of a diplomatic protest against China on Wednesday after Chinese coast guard ships reportedly neared a Philippine-occupied shoal in the disputed South China Sea.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr., who is accompanying Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on a visit to Russia, issued the normally confidential order to officials at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Relations between the Philippines and China have vastly improved under Duterte, but territorial rifts have remained a thorny issue.

The Philippine military chief and other officials have reported new activities by Chinese coast guard vessels at Second Thomas Shoal, where Filipino marines keep watch aboard a long-grounded naval ship.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, a strategic waterway where U.S. Navy ships and aircraft have patrolled for decades.

Locsin tweeted: "Do I have to file home to file the goddamned diplomatic protest myself? That's the military speaking. Not some friggin' civilian media outlet. File now!!!"

There was no immediate comment from Chinese Embassy officials in Manila. In the past they have claimed Chinese sovereignty over the shoal.

The Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, a Washington-based think tank which monitors movements in the disputed waters, says Chinese coast guard ships routinely patrol Second Thomas Shoal, the Luconia Shoals off Malaysia and Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines to project a Chinese presence in key areas which Beijing claims but where it does not have any permanent facilities.

Chinese coast guard ships have guarded Second Thomas from a close distance since 2013 in a quiet standoff with a small contingent of Filipino marines manning a rusty but still actively commissioned naval ship that Manila deliberately grounded in 1999 after China seized nearby Mischief Reef five years earlier.

China has demanded the Philippines pull out the World War II-era tank landing ship, the BRP Sierra Madre, and also warned Manila against undertaking construction in the area, a rich fishing ground. Manila has refused to withdraw its navy ship and has protested past Chinese blockades of Philippine vessels transporting supplies to the marines stationed at the shoal.

NATION

Former US envoy to Ukraine meets with lawmakers

BY ERIC TUCKER
AND LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers heard testimony Thursday from the former special U.S. envoy to Ukraine who has become a central figure in the unfolding impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump. It's the first in what is expected to be a series of interviews with officials inside and outside the State Department.

Kurt Volker produced documents for the interview including copies of text messages and photos, according to a person who wasn't authorized to speak on the record about the private session. Investigators planned to ask Volker about any role he may have played in Trump's efforts to press Ukrainian officials for damaging information about the son of former Vice President Joe Biden.

Volker resigned on Sept. 27 after being asked to testify to Congress about the whistleblower complaint that describes how

Trump in a July 25 phone call repeatedly prodded Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy for an investigation of Biden and his son Hunter while his administration delayed the release of military aid to help Ukraine fight Russia-backed separatists. The complaint says Volker met in Kyiv with Zelenskiy and other Ukrainian political figures a day after the call and he provided advice about how to "navigate" Trump's demands.

"I think he was doing the best he could," said retired senior U.S. diplomat Daniel Fried, who described the actions of his former colleague as trying to guide Ukrainians on "how to deal with President Trump under difficult circumstances."

Volker agreed to a voluntary interview with lawmakers and congressional staff, led by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, of California, as Democrats dig deeper into the administration's handling of Ukraine. The session began Thursday morning and appeared likely to last well into the



J. SCOTT APPLEGWHITE/AP

Kurt Volker, a former special envoy to Ukraine, arrives for a closed-door interview with House investigators as House Democrats proceed with the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump at the Capitol in Washington on Thursday.

afternoon.

Republican lawmakers who took part in the first session with Volker downplayed what they heard.

"Not one thing he has said supports any of the Democrats' impeachment narrative, not one thing," said Republican Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio.

Republicans also argued that because Democrats have not yet voted in the House to open a formal impeachment inquiry, the proceedings lack authority to set certain rules for the hearing.

Republicans are increasingly

calling the impeachment proceedings into question as a way to sow doubt and put pressure on Speaker Nancy Pelosi to force a vote that would put Democrats on record for an impeachment inquiry.

Volker's role on Ukraine, along with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's confirmation that he was also on Trump's July 25 call, has deeply entangled the State Department in the impeachment inquiry now shadowing the White House.

The State Department said Volker has confirmed that he put a

Zelenskiy adviser in contact with Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, at the Ukraine adviser's request, and Giuliani has said he was in frequent contact with Volker.

Separately, The Associated Press reported on Wednesday that Volker met last year with a top official from the same Ukrainian energy firm that paid Biden's son Hunter to serve on its board. The meeting occurred even as Giuliani pressed Ukraine's government to investigate the company and Biden's involvement with it.

Trump now calls for China to probe Bidens

BY JILL COVIN
AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump, ensnared in an impeachment inquiry over his request that Ukraine investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, on Thursday called on China to do the same.

"China should start an investigation into the Bidens," Trump said in remarks to reporters outside the White House.

Trump said he hadn't directly asked Chinese President Xi Jinping to investigate Biden and his son Hunter but said it's "certainly something we could start thinking about."

By publicly egging China on to investigate a Democratic political rival, Trump affirmed the approach he made in private to Ukraine's president that has led to the impeachment investigation by the House.

Trump has defended his contact with Ukraine as "perfect" and now is giving broad airing to a similar appeal to China, a nation that has much at stake in its relationship with the U.S. in an ongoing trade war.

The openness of his call on Thursday suggests the president will continue to try to make the case that such requests are normal, even in the face of broad condemnation from Democrats and even some Republicans over the propriety of asking another country to investigate a potential opponent in the 2020 election. In the case of both Ukraine and China, Trump has made his allegations against Biden without evidence of wrongdoing.

The president and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, also have tried to raise suspicions about Hunter Biden's business dealings in China, leaning heavily on the writings of conservative author Peter

Schweizer. On Monday, Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called the allegation that Chinese government business gave Biden's son \$1.5 billion "totally groundless."

The president's reference to China came unprompted when he answered a question about the July 25 Ukraine call and moments after he was asked about trade negotiations with China.

"I have a lot of options on China, but if they don't what we want, we have tremendous, tremendous power," Trump said.

He later alleged without evidence that China had a "sweetheart deal" on trade with the U.S. because of the Bidens.

Biden campaign Chairman Cedric Richmond dismissed Trump's assertions as a reflection of the president's concerns about facing Biden in his reelection campaign.



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

President Donald Trump speaks to the media on the South Lawn of the White House on Thursday. Trump has now asked China to investigate Joe Biden and his son Hunter.

Casino giant MGM settles Las Vegas shooting lawsuits for up to \$800M

BY KEN RITTER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Two years after a gunman rained gunfire on country music fans from a high-rise Las Vegas hotel, MGM Resorts International reached a settlement that could pay up to \$800 million to families of the 58 people who died and hundreds of others who were injured, attor-

neys announced Thursday.

It's a major step to resolve hundreds of lawsuits in multiple states that seek compensation for a range of physical and psychological injuries from the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Victims say the casino giant failed to protect 22,000 people at a concert venue it owns or stop

the shooter from spending several days amassing an arsenal of assault-style weapons and ammunition in his suite at the Mandalay Bay resort.

The amount of the settlement depends on the number of plaintiffs who take part, according to a statement from Las Vegas law firm Eglet Adams, which represents nearly 2,500 victims and

made the announcement just days after the second anniversary of the Oct. 1, 2017, massacre.

"Our goal has always been to resolve these matters so our community and the victims and their families can move forward in the healing process," said Jim Murren, chairman and CEO of MGM Resorts.

An independent administrator will be appointed by a court to

dole out money from the settlement fund, attorneys and legal experts. They expect to wrap up the work by late next year.

MGM's insurers will fund a minimum of \$735 million. Depending on the number of victims who participate, the company will contribute more, up to \$800 million, according to the victims' attorneys.

NATION

2020 Democrats put focus on guns in Nev.

BY KATHLEEN RONAYNE
AND MICHELLE L. PRICE
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Democratic presidential candidates reiterated their call for gun control Wednesday and urged Americans to keep up the fight for change, sidestepping the issue of impeachment in Washington and whether it will divert lawmakers.

At a gun policy forum in Nevada, Cory Booker said the National Rifle Association and the corporate gun lobby are not the only forces stopping progress on gun control.

"Change never comes from Washington. It comes to Washington by Americans that demand it," the New Jersey senator said.

He added later that "Every one of us in America, right now, by doing nothing, we are implicated in this. We all have to take responsibility."

The forum — about 2 miles from the Las Vegas Strip, the site of the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history — was held amid an effort to keep gun violence front and center of the debate and gave 2020 presidential candidates a chance to showcase their plans to combat the epidemic. Negotiations between President Donald Trump's administration and lawmakers have halted over background checks legislation passed by the Democratic-controlled House, an effort that faced long odds even before the impeachment inquiry began.

"This president has gotten nothing done about much of anything," California Sen. Kamala Harris said Wednesday, adding that Trump will use impeachment as an excuse to avoid action.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, right, hugs former Rep. Gabby Giffords during a gun safety forum on Wednesday in Las Vegas.

Former Vice President Joe Biden made a similar prognosis, saying, "Nothing is going to change until we get this guy out of office."

They were among nine White House hopefuls who spoke at the forum Wednesday, almost two years to the day after a man rained gunfire from the window of a high-rise hotel onto a country music festival below, killing 58 people. The forum was hosted by MSNBC, March for Our Lives and Giffords, the advocacy organization set up by former Arizona congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who was shot and gravely wounded during a constituent meeting in 2011 in Tucson.

Giffords opened the event with

brief remarks calling for Democrats, Republicans and independents to come together and fight for change.

"Stopping gun violence takes courage. The courage to do what's right. The courage of new ideas," Giffords said.

In addition to Booker, Harris and Biden, the other candidates who spoke were South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg; former Obama Housing Secretary Julian Castro; Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar; former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke; Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren; and businessman Andrew Yang.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders was expected to attend, but he ended up undergoing a heart

procedure for a blocked artery. His campaign said he was canceling appearances "until further notice."

O'Rourke recast his campaign around gun control after the August shooting in his hometown of El Paso, Texas, where a gunman targeting Hispanics killed 22 people. O'Rourke vowed to ban assault weapons, saying at a debate in Houston in September, "Hell, yes, we're gonna take your AR-15, your AK-47, and we're not going to allow it to be used against your fellow Americans anymore."

That's a shift from his position during his 2018 U.S. Senate campaign when he did not support mandatory buybacks.

O'Rourke criticized Buttigieg

for saying that a mandatory government gun buyback program has "mixed results" and likening it to a "shiny object" that makes it harder to pass other gun control policies.

O'Rourke himself was criticized earlier in the day by Booker, who said O'Rourke supported a gun licensing program only after the shooting in his hometown.

While Buttigieg didn't endorse mandatory gun buybacks, he did speak in support of banning assault weapons, saying it's not true that the Second Amendment bars the government from banning certain weapons.

Booker and Harris also said they support some type of mandatory buyback program. Castro said he's open to hearing arguments for a mandatory gun buyback, "but I think there are 15 things — different things — that we can do."

Most candidates have focused on expanding background checks and banning the future manufacture and sale of certain high-powered weapons.

Warren echoed a key theme of her campaign when she said inaction on gun policy is a symptom of corruption in Washington.

"This is a fundamental question about who Washington works for, and the answer for decades now has been Washington works great for the gun industry — it just doesn't work great for everyone else in America."

Biden on Wednesday released a detailed gun policy plan emphasizing his role as a leading senator in adopting a background check law in 1993 and a ban on certain semi-automatic weapons as part of a sweeping 1994 crime law.

FAA orders inspections after cracks found on Boeing planes

BY MICHAEL LARIS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration is ordering airlines to inspect key structural components on more than 1,900 Boeing airplanes to look for cracks that could endanger the aircraft.

Southwest, United and American are among the U.S. airlines that fly the Next-Generation 737 jets covered under the urgent order, which will be formally issued Thursday. About 165 U.S.-registered planes will have to be inspected within seven days, the FAA said Wednesday.

"Boeing notified the agency of the matter after it discovered structural cracks on an aircraft undergoing modifications in China," the FAA said in a statement. "Subsequent inspections yielded similar cracks in a small number of additional planes."

The cracks were discovered in a joint and "fail-safe" parts related to support beams in the jets' wings, according to the FAA and

Boeing.

The problem "could adversely affect the structural integrity of the airplane and result in loss of control of the airplane," according to a draft of the FAA order published Wednesday on the website of the Federal Register.

Boeing said no airlines have reported safety problems related to the cracks.

"We are actively engaged with and supporting our customers ... and have provided detailed instructions for conducting the inspections and reporting the results," Boeing said in a statement, adding that "safety and quality are our top priorities."

"This issue does not affect any 737 Max airplanes or the P-8 Poseidon," a derivative of the 737 NG designed for anti-submarine warfare and surveillance, the company said.

The FAA's order applies to planes that have reached certain thresholds for time in the air. It considers the number "cycles" an airplane has been through



JONATHAN NEWTON/The Washington Post

The FAA has issued an urgent order for safety inspections on some Boeing 737s after structural cracks were found.

meaning how many times it has gone through pressurization and depressurization.

"Cycles typically correspond to the number of flights and are not dependent on the calendar age of an aircraft," the FAA said.

The order "will require operators to inspect aircraft with more than 30,000 cycles within seven days of the issuance of the rule. Aircraft between 22,600 and 29,999 cycles must be inspected within 1,000 cycles," the FAA said, adding that the planes will then have to follow up with a regimen of periodic inspections.

Yang's campaign reports raising \$10M in 3rd quarter

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Technology entrepreneur Andrew Yang raised \$10 million for his presidential campaign over the past three months, a stunning amount for a political newcomer that bested some established Democratic politicians in the primary.

The total is more than triple the \$2.8 million he took in from April through June and is evidence of the small yet fervent base of support his unorthodox campaign has drawn.

"We shocked the world. They did not see that coming," Yang said to cheers Wednesday night at a town hall in Las Vegas, where he drew a crowd that rivaled that of a nearby event hosted by California Sen. Kamala Harris.

Last month, he crowded-surfed across a packed room at an event in California.

His centerpiece policy initiative is a "universal basic income" in which the government would pay all households \$1,000 a month. As

a self-described "Asian man who loves math," he says he would be the best general election foil to President Donald Trump.

"If we went from \$2.8 million to \$10 million in the 3rd quarter, what will we do in the 4th quarter?" Yang tweeted Wednesday. "That is the fun of this campaign — the sky is the limit."

Yang's haul was better than that of Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet, who raised \$2.1 million, and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, who took in \$6 million after issuing an urgent plea last month to supporters, warning that he would likely drop out if he did not raise an additional \$1.7 million.

Yang consistently polls in the low single digits, and there is no evidence yet that he is poised to break through. In a late September poll released by Monmouth University on Wednesday, 2% of Democratic registered voters said they support Yang for the Democratic nomination.

NATION

Victim's brother hugs ex-Dallas cop after trial

BY JAKE BLEIBERG
Associated Press

DALLAS — A white Dallas police officer who said she mistook a neighbor's apartment for her own and fatally shot him in his living room was sentenced to a decade in prison in a stunning courtroom scene that included the dead man's brother and the black judge embracing the sobbing officer.

People outside the courtroom reacted angrily to the sentence given to Amber Guyger in the death of Botham Jean, believing it was too lenient. But Jean's brother addressed her directly from the witness stand.

Brant Jean told Guyger that his brother would have wanted her to turn her life over to Christ and that if she asks God for forgiveness, she will get it.

"I love you as a person. I don't wish anything bad on you," he said to Guyger, 31, before asking the judge. "I don't know if this is possible, but can I give her a hug?"

The judge said he could, and Brant and Guyger stood up, met in front of the bench and embraced while Guyger cried. Judge Tammy Kemp also hugged Guyger before she was led from the courtroom Wednesday.

The shooting in September 2018 drew widespread attention

because of the strange circumstances and because it was one in a string of shootings of unarmed black men by white police officers.

Guyger, arrested three days after the shooting and later fired, was convicted of murder Tuesday. The jury, which was largely made up of women and people of color, could have sentenced her to up to life in prison or as little as two years. Prosecutors asked them to send her to prison for 28 years, which is how old Botham Jean would have been if he were still alive.

She will be eligible for parole in five years, after serving half of her sentence.

As video of the dramatic hearing circulated online, critics blasted the judge, saying her hug was inappropriate for the juror over the case.

Meanwhile, at a Dallas church where the Jean family gathered to worship and Botham Jean used to lead congregation singing, video of Brant Jean embracing Guyger in court drew applause and "amen"s when shown Wednesday night.

Dallas County District Attorney John Creuzot, a former trial judge, called Brant's embrace of Guyger "an amazing act of healing and forgiveness that is rare in today's society ... especially for



TOM FOX, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Botham Jean's younger brother, Brant, hugs former Dallas police officer Amber Guyger in a Dallas courtroom on Wednesday. Guyger was sentenced to 10 years in the shooting death of Botham Jean.

many of our leaders."

If Jean's 18-year-old brother "can heal and express healing in that fashion, in his words and in his deeds, I would hope that the greater community, not just Dallas but all of Texas and all of the United States, could gain a message from that," he told reporters.

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson issued a statement saying he would "never, ever forget the in-

credible examples of love, faith and strength personified by Botham, Brant and the entire Jean family."

Dozens of demonstrators marched through parts of downtown Dallas on Wednesday night to protest the sentence. One woman was taken into custody after she appeared to disregard police orders not to obstruct traffic.

Poll: Most say whites treated more fairly by police

BY ERIN HAINES
AND HANNAH FINGERHUT
Associated Press

Majorities of Americans across racial lines say white people are treated more fairly than black people by the police, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

But the poll finds a disconnect between white Americans who identify disparate treatment of people of color by the police but who don't see police violence as a serious problem — a contrast on display this week as many black Americans welcomed the guilty verdict against former Dallas officer Amber Guyger as a singular victory rather than proof of changing attitudes.

About 7 in 10 black Americans, and about half of Hispanics, call police violence against the public very serious, compared with about a quarter of white Americans. Roughly another third of white Americans call it a moder-

ately serious problem.

The dynamic has played out in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, which began in 2014 with the fatal shooting of unarmed Michael Brown, 18, by white former Ferguson, Mo., police officer Darren Wilson.

The work of activists around the issue of policing in communities of color has helped to raise awareness, said poll respondent Warren Miller, 62, a Realtor living in Fairview, Mich., who said his black friends helped him realize that white people are treated more fairly by police.

But Miller, who is white, also said he doesn't believe police violence against the public is a serious problem. Asked why, he laughed nervously before responding: "In northern Michigan, we don't have as many problems, the city issues. It's small-town America, where everybody knows everybody. That could've influenced part of my perception as well."

"White folks are trying to grapple with the difference between what they want to and need to believe about their country, and what their eyes increasingly are telling them is true," said anti-racist author and educator Tim Wise, adding that for many black and brown Americans, the notion that racism is systemic and not limited to individual instances is easier to accept "because it's their lived experience."

"For white folks, there's a need to hold on to the myth that America is an equal justice kind of place," said Wise, who is white. "People of color have never had to, nor have they ever been able to, buy into the fiction of liberty and justice for all."

According to the Mapping Police Violence project, black people are three times more likely to be killed by police than white people, and 99% of those cases in 2015 did not result in an officer being convicted of a crime. The project uses Justice Department

statistics and compiles information from the three largest crowd-sourced databases.

Overall, about a third of Americans think police violence against the public is a very serious problem in the U.S., though another third call it moderately serious. By comparison, close to half say violence against police is very serious.

But the poll also finds 55% of Americans say they think police in most communities are more likely to use deadly force against a black person than a white person.

"I think there's a misconception that black citizens are inherently more dangerous or more likely to react violently to a police encounter," said Gabe Wood, 49, of Wilmington, N.C.

The Democrat, who is white, cited "a laundry list of issues that go back a long time" like stereotypes about different races and the threats they present.

Video of attack at Md. newspaper to be shown

The Washington Post

ANNAPOLIS, MD. — Video depicting the attack on the Capital Gazette newsroom can be shown to jurors after a judge rejected a defense request to block the footage at trial.

Lawyers for alleged shooter Jarrod Ramos argued that surveillance video from a front entrance and rear exit of the office during the June 28, 2018, mass shooting would unfairly prejudice jurors.

The footage includes images of fleeing and wounded victims "suffering" during the attack, material that would unfairly "appeal to the emotions of the jury," stated Elizabeth Palan, one of Ramos' public defenders.

After reviewing the video several times, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Judge Laura Ripken on Wednesday sided with prosecutors during a pretrial hearing, saying the value of the footage outweighs concerns of prejudice because it helps prove the elements of the crimes charged.

"To reduce the video ... would cause confusion of the issues and potentially be misleading to the jury," Ripken said. "The best evidence in this case of what was occurring is the video itself."

Ramos, 39, is charged with murder in the shootings that killed five people on June 28, 2018. Ramos has pleaded "not criminally responsible," Maryland's version of the insanity defense.

Images in the video of the shooter, victims fleeing and the weapon speaks to the deliberate nature of the attack and the fear of those involved — elements needed to prove murder and assault charges, the judge said.

Palan had suggested that still images captured from the video could stand in for the footage, but Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess pushed back, saying the video shows "direct evidence of the crime."

"To suggest that still pictures could convey the methodical hunting ... is inaccurate, it's astounding to me," Leitess said.

In arguing to show 36 minutes of video at trial, Leitess said the footage shows Ramos "pacing" and "hunting" during the attack. The video also shows Ramos changed his appearance, taking off his ponytail and removing his glasses after the shooting, Leitess said. When paired with police footage, the video reveals that he hid under a desk after the attack for more than 10 minutes as officers swept through the office, she said.

"The hiding shows the consciousness of guilt," Leitess said.

Police and prosecutors say Ramos opened fire in the newsroom after a long-standing grudge with the publication. Ramos had lost a defamation suit against the paper after it ran an article about Ramos pleading guilty to harassing a former high school classmate, according to court records.

NATION

Increased DNA testing planned at border

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is planning to expand the collection of DNA from migrants who cross U.S. borders and include the information in a massive criminal database operated by the FBI.

The effort is separate from and much broader than the rapid DNA testing done on families at the U.S.-Mexico border to help detect adults falsely posing as parents. Not much else is known yet about the increased testing, including its purpose and whether it would apply to children crossing alone or to asylum-seekers.

Two senior Homeland Security officials,

speaking Wednesday to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing effort, said the Department of Justice was crafting new regulations and details were being discussed in a working group, but it's not known when it would be implemented.

The collection comes after a huge increase in the number of people crossing the border, mostly Central American families. Officials have since said the numbers went down following crackdowns, changes on asylum and agreements with Central American countries, but border officers and agents have voiced concern over the potential for criminals crossing while resources were stretched.

The practice would allow the government to amass a trove of biometric data on migrants, raising major privacy concerns and questions on whether such data should be compelled even when a person is not suspected of a crime other than crossing the border illegally.

"It's not surprising, given this administration's fixation on villainizing folks at the border, but it reaches beyond them," said American Civil Liberties Union attorney Vera Eidelman. DNA also contains identifying information on their families.

Eidelman said it changes the purpose of DNA collection from one of criminal investigation to population surveillance.

A top Border Patrol official recently warned that expanding DNA collection at the border could hurt the orderly processing of migrants. In a written deposition in a case involving families separated at the border, Brian Hastings, chief of the Border Patrol's law enforcement directorate, addressed whether DNA would be a good tool for identifying families and should be expanded.

"Even once such policies and procedures were put in place, Border Patrol Agents are not currently trained on DNA collection measures, health and safety precautions, or the appropriate handling of DNA samples for processing," he wrote.

Group pulls video it posted that stirred talk of designer babies

Associated Press

A government-funded group that's leading efforts to set standards for gene editing has pulled a video it posted in the wake of concern about how it portrayed the ethically dicey science and its possible use to make designer babies.

The National Academy of Sciences posted the video earlier this week along with a tweet it later removed.

The tweet read: "Dream of being stronger? Or smarter? Do you dream of having a top student or star athlete? Or a child free of inheritable #diseases? Can human #GeneEditing eventually make this and more possible? #TheScienceBehindIt! Take the quiz!" It included emojis of a brain, bulging muscles, a professor and an athlete.

"I am disappointed by this," said Alta Charo, a University of Wisconsin, Madison ethicist involved in past academy panels on gene editing. She said the tweet and video could further mislead the public about editing's most important uses or wrongly suggest that it's possible now to boost traits like intelligence.

The video gives the inaccurate impression that gene editing can give positive traits without any potential downsides — "the definition of hubris," said Harvard Medical School dean Dr. George Q. Daley, who also has been involved in academy work. "We are



National Academy of Sciences/ AP

This image made from the National Academy of Sciences website
Wednesday shows part of a video of people discussing gene editing and designer babies. The group pulled the video and issued an apology after some criticism.

not there yet."

Making designer babies has long been feared by opponents of gene editing that alters DNA in embryos, eggs or sperm, in part because such changes can pass to future generations. Last year, a Chinese researcher's claim to have done that in twin girls was widely denounced and led to new calls for oversight. The academy and the World Health Organization separately formed scientific panels to consider that.

The new video is part of a series aimed at improving public understanding of the science behind

complex issues, said academy spokeswoman Molly Galvin. The tweet was replaced by one noting the academy's position that gene editing should be done only to treat or prevent disease.

Wednesday night, after The Associated Press published a story on the matter, the group removed the video and issued a statement saying the video "left the misimpression that the use of genome editing for the 'enhancement' of human traits is permissible or taken lightly" which was not the intent. "We apologize for any concern or confusion we caused."

Cities push opioid suits against family that owns Purdue

Associated Press

to continue suing the Sacklers in their state courts.

Wednesday's filing by the local governments argued against having an injunction placed on the lawsuits targeting the family while Purdue's federal bankruptcy case plays out.

"In light of the well-documented pattern by the Sackler Family of hiding their assets from creditors, the Debtors' application is simply a transparent and improper effort on the part of the Debtors to protect the bulk of their beneficial owners' fortune from disclosure and recovery by any of their creditors," the local governments' court filing stated.

The family, which Forbes magazine listed in 2016 as one of the 20 wealthiest in the country, said the bankruptcy judge should halt all lawsuits against it.

"The stay is designed to allow all parties, even those parties who oppose that proposed settlement, to collaborate in finding a solution to the current litigation morass that the company faces," descendants of Raymond Sackler, one of the late patriarchs of the company, said in a statement.

"We are hopeful the bankruptcy court will grant the stay so that progress toward meaningful solutions can continue. If a stay is not granted, precious resources will be wasted on litigation expenses and that will benefit no one."

Placido Domingo resigns as general director of LA Opera

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Opera star Plácido Domingo resigned Wednesday as general director of the Los Angeles Opera and withdrew from all future performances, following multiple allegations from women who say the legendary tenor sexually harassed them there and at opera companies around the country over a period of decades.

Domingo's departure from the LA

Opera raises questions about his future career in the United States, where he has been removed or has stepped down from all scheduled appearances since the allegations were first reported by The Associated Press.

In two reports published Aug. 13 and Sept. 5, the AP spoke to more than 20 women who accused Domingo of sexual harassment or other inappropriate, sexually charged conduct. Many said Domingo tried to pressure them into sexual relation-

ships and sometimes punished them professionally if they rejected him. All said they feared reporting him because of his power to make or break their careers, and that his behavior was an open secret in the opera world.

The accusers' stories laid out strikingly similar patterns of behavior that included Domingo persistently contacting them — often calling them repeatedly at home late at night — expressing interest in their careers and urging them to meet him pri-

vately at his apartment or a hotel room, or for a drink or meal, under the guise of offering professional advice. Several women said they took extreme measures to avoid Domingo, hiding from him in dressing rooms, not answering their phones or asking male colleagues to walk them to their cars so they wouldn't be alone.

In a statement Wednesday, Domingo said that his ability to continue at the LA Opera was "compromised" by the accusations against him.

WORLD

Employee fatally stabs officers at Paris police HQ

BY SYLVIE CORBET
AND LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

PARIS — An administrator armed with a knife attacked officers inside Paris police headquarters Thursday, killing at least four before he was fatally shot, officials said.

Police union official Loic Traviers told reporters the attack appeared to have started in an office and continued elsewhere in the large police compound across the street from Notre Dame Cathedral.

The number of people injured was not immediately clear.

Travers said the motive is unknown, but that the 20-year police employee allegedly responsible for the attack worked in the intelligence unit and had not posed

known problems until Thursday. He said he could not remember an attack of this magnitude against officers.

Emery Siamandi, who works at police headquarters, said he was in the stairwell leading to the chief's office when he heard gunshots.

"I told myself, this isn't right," Siamandi said. "Moments later, I saw three policewomen crying. I couldn't help them in any way, and their colleagues were crying too, so I figured it must be serious."

He said he saw one officer on his knees in tears.

"It's the worst scenario possible, an internal attack with colleagues working together," said Philippe Capon, of the UNSA police union.

Capon cautioned against jump-



MICHEL EULER/AP

Officers control the perimeter outside the Paris police headquarters on Thursday after an administrator armed with a knife attacked and killed four officers inside.

ing to conclusions on the motive and said, "Nothing can be ruled out, including a personal issue."

French media reported a department employee carried out the attack with a ceramic knife in a part of the headquarters building that is not open to the public.

The attack came a day after thousands of officers marched in Paris to protest low wages, long hours and increasing suicides in their ranks.

France's prime minister, interior minister and the Paris

prosecutor were at police headquarters but the government had not issued a statement more than three hours after the rampage. French President Emmanuel Macron stopped by to show solidarity with officers and department employees, his office said.

The neighborhood where the police compound is located, a busy tourist destination, was locked down, the Cite metro stop was closed and the bridge between Notre Dame and the headquarters building was blocked off.

USAF officer, 2 fellow astronauts return to Earth from space station

Associated Press

ZHEZKAZGAN, Kazakhstan — An American, a Russian and the first person from the United Arab Emirates to fly into space landed safely on Thursday after a six-hour flight from the International Space Station.

The capsule carrying Air Force Lt. Col. Nick Hague, Alexey Ovchinin and Hazzaa al-Mansoori touched down on the steppe in Kazakhstan in Central Asia at 3:59 p.m. local time, the impact sending a cloud of dust into the sky.

Al-Mansoori, the first of two men chosen by the United Arab Emirates to fly to the space station, returned after an eight-day mission while space veteran Ovchinin and Hague, who was on his maiden flight, are back after spending six months at the station.

The three men were extracted from the capsule and put on fold-out chairs so that they could rest and undergo preliminary medical checks. Al-Mansoori's team wrapped the smiling astronaut in his country's flag before taking him away for more health checks.

The former military pilot, the first Arab to have traveled to the International Space Station, will return home to a hero's welcome as his flight last month was widely celebrated across the country, and Dubai's tallest skyscraper was lit up to mark the launch.

The UAE has a fledgling space program with big ambitions. It



DMITRI LOVETSKY/AP

NASA specialists carry U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Nick Hague shortly after the landing of the Russian Soyuz MS-12 space capsule about 80 miles southeast of Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan, on Thursday.

launched its first locally made satellite, KhalifaSat, in October from Japan, and it also wants to launch a probe to Mars in 2020.

Three NASA astronauts, a

European Space Agency crew member and two Russians remain aboard the orbiting lab to continue their work on hundreds of scientific experiments.

Johnson's new tone on Brexit falls flat

Associated Press

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson sought Thursday to build a coalition at home to back his new Brexit approach even as key European leaders declared that the measures he just proposed fall far short of the concessions needed to forge a deal.

Johnson offered a strikingly more conciliatory tone Thursday than in his previous tempestuous appearances in the House of Commons, arguing that the changes his government just offered on regulating trade between Ireland and Northern Ireland after Brexit represented a significant compromise. Johnson thinks the concessions should resolve the concerns that prompted British lawmakers to reject the previous Brexit deal three times.

"We have made genuine effort to bridge the chasm, to reconcile the apparently irreconcilable and to go the extra mile as time runs short," he said.

Britain is set to leave the European Union on Oct. 31 unless it seeks an extension and one is granted. Johnson has said he plans to leave on that day with or without a Brexit divorce agreement, yet the British Parliament has passed a law requiring him to seek an extension if no Brexit deal is reached. It's not yet clear how Johnson can reconcile that directive with his plans to leave the EU.

Economists and Johnson's own government say a no-deal Brexit could lead to significant trade disruptions for Britain, including shortages of medicine and fresh produce.

The new proposals from Johnson's government, delivered to the EU on Wednesday, focus on maintaining an open border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland — the key sticking point to a Brexit deal. The U.K. proposes to do that by keeping Northern Ireland closely aligned to EU rules for trade in goods, possibly for an extended period.

As the day wore on, key EU figures expressed more skepticism over the new U.K. proposals.

EU leader Donald Tusk said he was "still unconvinced" about the British proposals to unblock the stalled Brexit negotiations even after having a phone call with Johnson to discuss them.

Irish leader Leo Varadkar told reporters that the new Brexit plans "fall short in a number of aspects."

The European parliament supervisory Brexit group issued the most damning verdict, arguing that the new U.K. proposals "do not match even remotely" what is needed for a compromise.

WORLD

EU vows retaliation over US tariffs

Associated Press

PARIS — The European Union warned Thursday it will retaliate against the U.S. decision to slap tariffs on a range of the bloc's exports — from cheese to wine — that could cause job losses in Europe and price increases for Americans.

The Trump administration's decision to put new import taxes on EU goods worth \$7.5 billion opened a new chapter in the global trade wars that are heightening fears of a global recession.

The latest tariffs target large aircraft but also many typical European products such as olives, whiskey, wine, cheese and yogurt. They will take effect Oct. 18 and amount to a 10% tax on EU aircraft and a 25% rate on everything else.

The U.S. got the legal go-ahead Wednesday from the World Trade Organization in a case involving illegal EU subsidies for the plane maker Airbus.

But the EU is expecting a similar case in-

volving U.S. subsidies for Boeing to go in its favor, with a ruling due in coming months. It has said it hopes the two sides can hold off new tariffs, which economically amount to taxes on domestic importers. Sometimes importers pass on the higher costs to consumers, making goods more expensive.

"If the U.S. imposes countermeasures it will be pushing the EU into a situation where we will have to do the same," said the European Commission's spokesman, Daniel Rosario, echoing the dark outlook expressed by many EU governments.

"This is a move that will first and foremost hit U.S. consumers and companies and will make efforts towards a negotiated settlement more complicated," he said.

Mindful that the tariffs do not actually come into effect for a couple weeks, Rosario stressed that the EU is still open to talking.

The tariffs come on top of existing ones that the U.S. and EU exchanged last year and multiply the headaches for European busi-

nesses fretting over Brexit, which could see Britain leave the EU on Oct. 31 without a deal — meaning new tariffs overnight on the heavy flow of trade across the Channel.

More broadly, the tariffs add to uncertainty for the global economy, which has been hit particularly hard by the U.S.' bigger and nastier trade war with China.

It all adds up to a grim outlook for exporters and manufacturers, which are cutting down on investment.

The head of the Spanish Federation of Food and Beverage Industries, Mauricio Garcia de Quevedo, said the new U.S. tariffs will make it harder for the companies he represents to compete internationally. That will contribute to job losses, he said, without providing detail.

The United States is the Spanish sector's second-biggest food and beverage client after the EU, according to the federation. The sector exported \$1.9 billion last year.

Japanese spacecraft sends rover to asteroid

TOKYO — Japan's Hayabusa2 spacecraft released a small rover Thursday that will land on the surface of an asteroid as part of its final mission before heading back to Earth, Japan's space agency said.

The Minerva-II2 rover began a slow descent to the asteroid Ryugu, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, said.

Hayabusa2 arrived in the area in June 2018. It has collected soil samples and other data from the asteroid 180 million miles from Earth in a series of missions aimed at obtaining clues to the origin of the solar system.

Israel swears in newly elected parliament

JERUSALEM — Israel was swearing in its newly elected parliament on Thursday in a ceremony for what could be a very short term after the country's second inconclusive election of the year left it with no new government on the horizon.

The event also takes place in parallel to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's high-profile pre-indictment hearing on corruption charges, which have threatened to end his political career and contributed to the current paralysis of the country's political system.

Neither Netanyahu nor his chief rival, Benny Gantz, has been able to build a parliamentary majority with their natural allies.

Report: Iran foiled assassination attempt

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's semi-official Fars news agency says authorities foiled an assassination attempt against the head of the Revolutionary Guard's foreign wing, or Quds Force, last month.

Thursday's report says the attempt against Gen. Qassim Soleimani occurred in September, when Soleimani planned to attend a religious ceremony in the southeastern Kerman province.

It said attackers had planned to plant nearly 1,102 pounds of explosives in an underground tunnel beneath where Soleimani would have been.

3 foreigners released after Egypt protests

CAIRO — Two Jordanians and a Sudanese arrested in Cairo amid the recent crackdown that followed anti-government protests demanding Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi step down were released and flown back to their home countries, airport officials said Thursday.

Recent mass arrests followed scattered protests that erupted Sept. 20 in Cairo and several provinces in the wake of corruption allegations leveled by an Egyptian businessman living in self-imposed exile against the president and the military. El-Sissi dismissed the accusations as "sheer lies." According to lawyers, more than 2,000 people, including 111 children and several foreigners, were rounded up.

From The Associated Press

Deadly typhoon lashes southern South Korea

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A powerful typhoon has lashed southern South Korea, with authorities saying Thursday that the storm left nine people dead and five others missing and knocked out power to tens of thousands of homes.

Typhoon Mitag brought strong winds and heavy rainfall to the southern part of the country on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Interior Ministry said the nine dead included six people who were buried by landslides. It said another seven people were injured in typhoon-related incidents and that about 310 people were displaced from their homes.

"My heart aches because human casualties aren't small," President Moon Jae-in wrote on Facebook.

A ministry report said the storm knocked out power to 48,670 homes. Hundreds of homes and other buildings flooded.

Moon said the government was mobilizing all available equipment and administrative resources for the recovery works.



Firefighters search for missing people in an area struck by a landslide Thursday in Busan, South Korea. At least six people died in landslides after Typhoon Mitag hit the country.

Jo JUNG-HO, YONHAP/AP

Shot teen charged as Hong Kong mulls ban on masks

Associated Press

HONG KONG — The teenager who was the first victim of police gunfire in Hong Kong's monthslong pro-democracy protests was charged Thursday with rioting and attacking police as calls grew for the government to ban the wearing of masks to subdue rising violence in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The shooting of the 18-year-old Tuesday during widespread clashes marred China's National Day celebration and marked an alarming escalation in violence in the unrest that has rocked one of the world's top financial hubs since June.

Local media reported that

Chief Executive Carrie Lam will hold a special Executive Council meeting on Friday to discuss a ban on masks, which have helped protesters conceal their identities, and other tough measures under a colonial-era emergency law.

Lam's office said it had no comment. Pro-Beijing legislator Michael Tsang confirmed the meeting. Activists and some lawmakers warned that such harsh measures would further alienate the people and could prompt a more ferocious backlash.

Thousands of people rallied Wednesday to demand police accountability for the shooting, which has deepened anger against police, who have been accused of being heavy-handed against protesters. Pockets of

Tsang was among seven people charged Thursday with rioting, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison. He also faces two additional counts of attacking two police officers, punishable by up to six months in prison.

Tsang and two others who were hospitalized did not appear in court. The government said Tsang's condition is stable. Dozens of supporters, many in black, sat outside the courthouse.

Thousands of people rallied Wednesday to demand police accountability for the shooting, which has deepened anger against police, who have been accused of being heavy-handed against protesters. Pockets of

black-clad youths vented their anger at night, lobbing gasoline bombs at police quarters, vandalizing subway stations and blocking traffic in several districts. Police responded with tear gas in some areas.

More than 1,000 students marched Thursday at Chinese University in a continuing show of support for Tsang and vowed to keep up their fight for more democratic freedoms. Many students felt that firing at Tsang's chest, close to his heart, was an attempt to kill him.

Police defended the shooting as "reasonable and lawful" because the officer had feared for his life and those of his colleagues.

WORLD

India's PM says villages all have access to toilets

BY KRITHIKA VARAGU
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India's prime minister said Wednesday the country's villages now all have access to toilets as his government announced another ambitious campaign aimed at eliminating single-use plastics within three years.

Nearly 600 million people have been given access to toilets, with more than 110 million toilets built since his government came to power in 2014, Narendra Modi said in a speech to thousands of villagers in his western home state of Gujarat, commemorating the 150th anniversary of independence leader Mohandas Gandhi's birth.

He said that "today the world is amazed by this success of ours and they are rewarding us."

More than 60% of India's 1.3 billion people live in more than 600,000 villages.

Poor villagers who can't afford to build toilets in their homes chose open fields, forests, ditches and other open spaces for

defecation.

After becoming India's prime minister in 2014, Modi promised to make India an open-defecation-free country. He said Wednesday that the task was not over yet.

Also Wednesday, Environment Ministry official Chintan Mishra said the government has started efforts to "sensitize" the public against single-use plastics.

Mishra explained the campaign at a meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in New Delhi.

Most Indian states already have some regulations on single-use plastics. The central government is asking all states to try to end their use by 2022.

Mishra, however, said the government would not impose a blanket nationwide ban.

Chitra Mukherjee, an environmentalist, said it was disappointing that the government didn't decide on a national ban.

"Certain products such as plastic stirrers, cups, straws and sachets would be very easy to ban outright because they don't require alternatives and have no re-

cyclable value," said Mukherjee, policy director of the environmental research group Chintan.

Thousands of small and medium-size plants currently manufacturing single-use plastics could shut down if there were a total ban.

"While India's plastic exports would not be impacted, domestic industry would certainly be hit temporarily," the Business Standard newspaper quoted Sribash Dasmohapatra, of the Plastic Export Promotion Council, as saying.

A national ban is not the main



ALTAF QADRI/AP

Indian rag-pickers collect plastic bottles in New Delhi, India, last month. India is launching a campaign to eliminate single-use plastics within three years.

issue, said Vinod Kumar Jindal, a government official overseeing the "Clean India Mission."

"The rules for plastic and solid

waste management are already there. It is the implementation that must be improved, and public awareness," he said.

Amazon fires declined during usual peak time

The Washington Post

RIO DE JANEIRO — The number of fires in the Amazon rainforest dropped significantly in September, a month when fires typically increase, the nation's satellite research agency reported.

The number of fires since the beginning of the year continued to outpace those in 2018, according to data watched closely by scientists and activists.

Around 20,000 fires burned in the Brazilian portion of the Amazon during September, Brazil's National Institute for Space Research reported. That was a 35% drop from August, when roughly 33,000 fires burned — a nine-year high. It was a 20% drop from September 2018, when 24,500 burned.

The plunge — which followed a summer of international attention on the fires and the Brazilian government's response to them — caught Amazon watchers by surprise. Since measuring began two decades ago, September, the peak of dry season, has almost always been more flammable than August. That history fueled expectations that the problem would only worsen as the dry season deepened.

Analysts said rain and the government response — hundreds of soldiers were dispatched to fight the fires — might have been factors.

"It will take some time to determine the impact of government interventions," said Daniel Nepstad, the executive director of the Earth Innovation Institute in San Francisco.

The overall number of fires in the Amazon biome from January through September was nonetheless 43% higher than the same period last year, according to the institute.

Scientists say the Amazon is vital to curbing the destabilizing effects of climate change.

The increase in fires ignited an extraordinary summer in Brazil. Smoke blanketed faraway cities. A viral campaign broadcast images of the forest in flames. International leaders and celebrities criticized the response of President Jair Bolsonaro.

Bolsonaro ran for office on promises to promote development in the Amazon. He is accused of easing environmental protections, which critics say has encouraged illegal deforestation.

As the fires increased, he accused his critics of lighting them to make him look bad. He rejected a multimillion dollar aid package offered by the Group of Seven as an assault on Brazil's sovereignty.

Fire is a key tool in the process of deforestation. Analysts blame most of it on land grabbers burning the forest to clear land for cattle and soy farms.

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A composite image on the left side of the page. The top half shows a clear plastic water bottle with a blue cap and a blue label that reads 'NATURE'S RECIPE' and 'N.R.'. The bottle is positioned in the center of a large, white, high-contrast water splash against a white background. The bottom half of the composite image is divided into two sections: a photograph of a snow-capped mountain range with green forests at the base, and a photograph of a calm lake with green trees reflected in the water.

H2OH!

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N.R.
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EXCHANGE™

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Yuengling, Hershey collaborate on brew

PA POTTSTVILLE — Now on tap: a new brew featuring Yuengling's nearly 200-year-old porter recipe and Hershey's chocolate.

The two Pennsylvania-based companies teamed up on a limited edition beer called Yuengling Hershey's Chocolate Porter. Beginning in mid-October, the chocolate-infused brew will be available on tap at bars, restaurants and other venues in 13 states from Kentucky to Massachusetts as well as Washington, D.C.

The brew was in development for nearly a year. Yuengling expects it to last until February.

Sheriff: Girl threatened boy over another girl

SC HILTON HEAD ISLAND — Authorities in South Carolina said a girl brought two kitchen knives to her elementary school and threatened to kill a boy who had a crush on another girl.

Citing a Beaufort County Sheriff's Office report, The Island Packet reported the knives were found in the girl's backpack by administrators at the Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts. The report said a student told a second-grade teacher the girl had a knife and had said she planned to kill a boy who liked another girl.

A search of the girl's backpack uncovered two blades, each about 4 inches long.

State fair announces its 2019 food menu

NC RALEIGH — The North Carolina State Fair, where diets meet their demise, released its belly-busting menu for 2019, and it includes some new concoctions.

One vendor is offering a red velvet funnel cake topped with cheese and enchilada sauces. Another will sell a jalapeno pepper stuffed with cheese and brisket, frying it up and serving it on a stick.

Fairgoers can also enjoy a golden-fried chicken breast nestled in a cinnamon bun, topped with pepper jack cheese and crispy bacon and drizzled with a zesty honey sauce.

This year's fair runs Oct. 12-27.

Agency investigates headless gator

FL SARASOTA — Florida wildlife investigators want to know what happened to an alligator found without its head on a side of a roadway.

The gator was spotted by Kimberly Kukich, who was driving to her parents' home in Sarasota. As she got closer to the large gator, she saw its head was missing.

Now the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is on the case. They say it's illegal to possess alligator parts without proper permits.

Investigators told ABC 7 that the gator was likely hit by a vehicle and its head was removed later.



ANDREW RUSH, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/AP

Walk this way

Lt. Matt Holland, of the West View Police Department, greets Charlotte Luczak, 4, who was walking with her mother, Katie, as they followed her brother, Bennett, on his way to kindergarten at West View Elementary school on International Walk to School Day on Wednesday in Pittsburgh. Members of Safe Kids Allegheny County, FedEx, UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, West View Police and Fire departments joined students to celebrate, raise awareness and promote safety.

Police kill cow that was running loose in city

IA DES MOINES — Police shot a cow that officers had tried to round up as it rambled across downtown Des Moines and nearby neighborhoods.

Police said the animal was found and killed Tuesday night.

The cow was first spotted in the East Village area of downtown. Officers tried to catch it for nearly three hours before it vanished into a forested area along the Des Moines River, north of downtown near Birdland Marina.

Violinist asks woman to stop recording

OH CINCINNATI — The president of Cincinnati's symphony orchestra said one of its recent concerts came to a halt when an audience member refused to stop recording a violinist's performance.

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra President Jonathan Martin told The Cincinnati Enquirer a patron in the front row began recording violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter's performance on a cell-

THE CENSUS

\$724

The amount a beer vendor using a personal card reader charged a fan for two beers at a Miami Dolphins football game. An arrest affidavit said Nathaniel Collier, 33, faces charges of grand theft and possession of a skimming device. According to police, the fan ordered two beers from Collier during the Dolphins game against the Los Angeles Chargers. Collier used his own device to charge \$724. The bank notified the victim about the charge.

phone over the weekend.

Mutter reportedly halted her performance with the orchestra and asked the woman in the audience to stop the recording.

Martin said the audience member then stood up and started talking to the soloist. He said he escorted the woman out and she deleted the recording.

Woman climbs fence at zoo's lion exhibit

NY NEW YORK — Zoo officials said a woman reportedly climbed over a safety barrier at the lion exhibit at a New York City zoo.

The Bronx Zoo said in a statement that staff received a report that an individual climbed over

the visitor barrier at the African lion exhibit.

The woman is seen in a social media video waving to the lion from across a moat that separates the animals from visitors.

The zoo said it was a "serious violation and unlawful trespass."

Javelina rescued after stopping freeway traffic

AZ PHOENIX — A baby javelina is recovering after a jaunt on a Phoenix freeway.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety said the young javelina was one of two that brought traffic on State Route 51 to a standstill.

Trooper Martin Sotelo man-

aged to wrangle one javelina. The other ran off and eluded capture.

The rescued javelina was transported to Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center in Scottsdale for medical treatment.

Javelina, which look like wild boar, are native to desert environments.

103 roping steers escape cattle truck fire

MT BILLINGS — A semi hauling a trailer full of roping steers caught fire on Interstate 94 in southern Montana but none of the cattle were injured.

The Montana Highway Patrol said the driver was able to safely remove all 103 head of cattle. Area residents, some of them on horseback, helped keep them off the road until someone volunteered the use of a nearby pen.

A motorist spotted the fire in the front axle and got the driver to pull over.

Trooper Richard Drake said the motorist used a fire extinguisher while the driver unloaded the steers, which are used in rodeo competitions.

From wire reports

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Stay connected and hey, welcome to the neighborhood.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

UAW rejects GM offer over pay, temp workers

By TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

DETROIT — General Motors offered striking union members wage increases or lump-sum payments in all four years of a proposed contract as bargainers seek a deal to end a walkout that's in its third week.

But union bargainers rejected the offer because it took money from other places to fund profit-sharing, and it didn't give temporary workers a clear path to a full-time job, according to a per-

son briefed on the negotiations.

Still, the offer, made late Monday, is likely to be the framework for whatever agreement is reached to end the strike by 49,000 workers that has halted production in the U.S. and severely cut output in Mexico and Canada. Both sides were still talking Wednesday.

"It's not insulating," Art Wheaton, an auto industry expert at the Worker Institute at Cornell University, said of the offer. "It's not close enough to ideal, but they're still talking."

After GM presented the offer, bargainers for the United Auto Workers union made a counteroffer that is now the subject of bargaining, according to the person, who asked not to be identified because details of the talks are private.

Another person briefed on the talks said much of what the union objected to, including proposed concessions, has been removed or is being bargained. That person said health care, a key sticking point with union members, would

remain the same as it is now.

The person, who also didn't want to be identified because the talks are confidential, did not know the status of other provisions that were being discussed Wednesday.

Among the union's big problems with the Monday offer is a provision requiring temporary workers to be employed for three uninterrupted years before they automatically become full-time. It's unlikely the workers would not be laid off in three years, making

it almost impossible to reach full-time status, the person said. Full-time workers on the picket lines say they want to see temporary workers get permanent jobs.

On the picket lines, members have said repeatedly that they want a bigger share of the more than \$30 billion in profits that GM has made during the past five years. But GM wants to cut its labor costs so they are closer to those at U.S. factories run by foreign automakers, mainly in the South.

Walmart to test new health care services for its workers

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Walmart is rolling out a health care pilot program for its employees that will come up with a curated list of high-quality providers but offer fewer choices than under the current plan.

Through the program, Walmart will help employees connect with local doctors in areas like primary care, cardiology and obstetrics. It is working with Nashville-based data analytics company Embold.

Health, which will cull through vast amounts of data from public and private insurance plans to come up with recommended providers based on effectiveness and cost-efficiency, Walmart will, in turn, use that data to curate a list for employees.

"It's a thoughtful approach to a goal of better health and better health care," Adam Stavisky, senior vice president of U.S. benefits for Walmart, said during a media call Wednesday.

The program will cover U.S.

Walmart and Sam's Club workers in Orlando and Tampa, Fla., the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, area and Northwest Arkansas starting Jan. 1. A human personal health care assistant will also be available for workers in North and South Carolina as a go-to resource on billing questions, making an appointment and understanding a diagnosis.

The goal is for the services to eventually be available to the 1 million Walmart and Sam's Club workers and family members on

the company's health insurance program. The retailer also plans to share its practices with other companies.

The downside of the program is that employees will be faced with fewer doctor choices. Walmart says workers can use doctors who are not on the company's curated list but it will cost more.

Walmart executives say it's hoping to remove a meaningful chunk of unnecessary health care costs for the company and its employees.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Military rates	Commercial rates
Euro costs (Oct. 4)	\$1.1225	\$1.1225
Dollar buys (Oct. 4)	€0.8909	€0.8909
British pound (Oct. 4)	£0.8535	£0.8535
Japanese yen (Oct. 4)	106.60	106.60
South Korean won (Oct. 4)	1,173.00	1,173.00

Commercial rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities. Military rates are for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For purchasing British pounds in Germany, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to U.S. dollars. One euro is 1.1225, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

COMMERCIAL RATES

Bahrain (Dinar) 0.3769

British pound 1.3286

Canada (Dollar) 1.3327

China (Yuan) 1.1565

Denmark (Krone) 6.7994

Egypt (Pound) 16.2821

Finland (Euro) \$1.0990

Hong Kong (Dollar) 7.8423

Hungary (Forint) 302.76

Israel (Shekel) 3.5033

Italy (Euro) 106.32

Kuwait (Dinar) 0.3042

Norway (Krone) 9.1274

Poland (Zlote) 5.16

Poland (Zlote) 3.95

Saudi Arabia (Riyal) 3.7510

Singapore (Dollar) 1.3007

South Korea (Won) 1,203.54

Switzerland (Franc) 0.9981

Thailand (Baht) 30.59

United Kingdom (Pound) 5.7021

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities. Commercial rates are for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For purchasing British pounds in Germany, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to U.S. dollars. One euro is 1.1225, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Primer rate 5.00

Discount rate 2.50

Federal funds market rate 1.85

3-month bill 1.72

30-year bond 2.09

MARKET WATCH

Oct. 2, 2019

Dow Jones

industrials

—494.42

26,078.62

Nasdaq

composite

—123.44

7,785.25

Standard &

Poor's 500

—52.64

2,887.61

Russell

2000

—13.80

1,479.63

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade

For the week of Oct. 4-10

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Super EFD	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$2.905	\$3.345	\$3,604	\$3.320
Change in price	-1.2 cents	+3.4 cents	+4.5 cents	-1.5 cents
Netherlands	—	\$3.754	\$3.957	\$4.002
Change in price	—	-9.2 cents	-8.7 cents	-6.4 cents
U.K.	\$3.255	\$3.555	\$3.514	\$3.239
Change in price	+3.25 cents	+3.4 cents	+4.5 cents	-1.5 cents
Azores	—	\$3.595	\$3.605	\$3.605
Change in price	—	—	+4.5 cents	—
Belgium	—	\$2.878	\$2.991	\$3.107
Change in price	—	No change	No change	No change
Turkey	—	—	\$3.405	\$3.130*
Change in price	—	—	+5.4 cents	-1.5 cents

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	—	+5.0 cents	—	\$3.119
Change in price	—	—	—	-2.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.699	—	—	\$3.119
Change in price	-1.0 cents	—	—	-2.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.779	—	\$3.429	\$3.146
Change in price	-1.0 cents	—	+5.0 cents	-2.0 cents
Guam	\$2.709*	\$3.149	\$3.409	—
Change in price	-1.0 cents	+4.0 cents	+5.0 cents	—

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade

For the week of Oct. 4-10

EUROPE GAS PRICES

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

WEEKEND



Link's Awakening
gets a makeover
Video games, Page 26

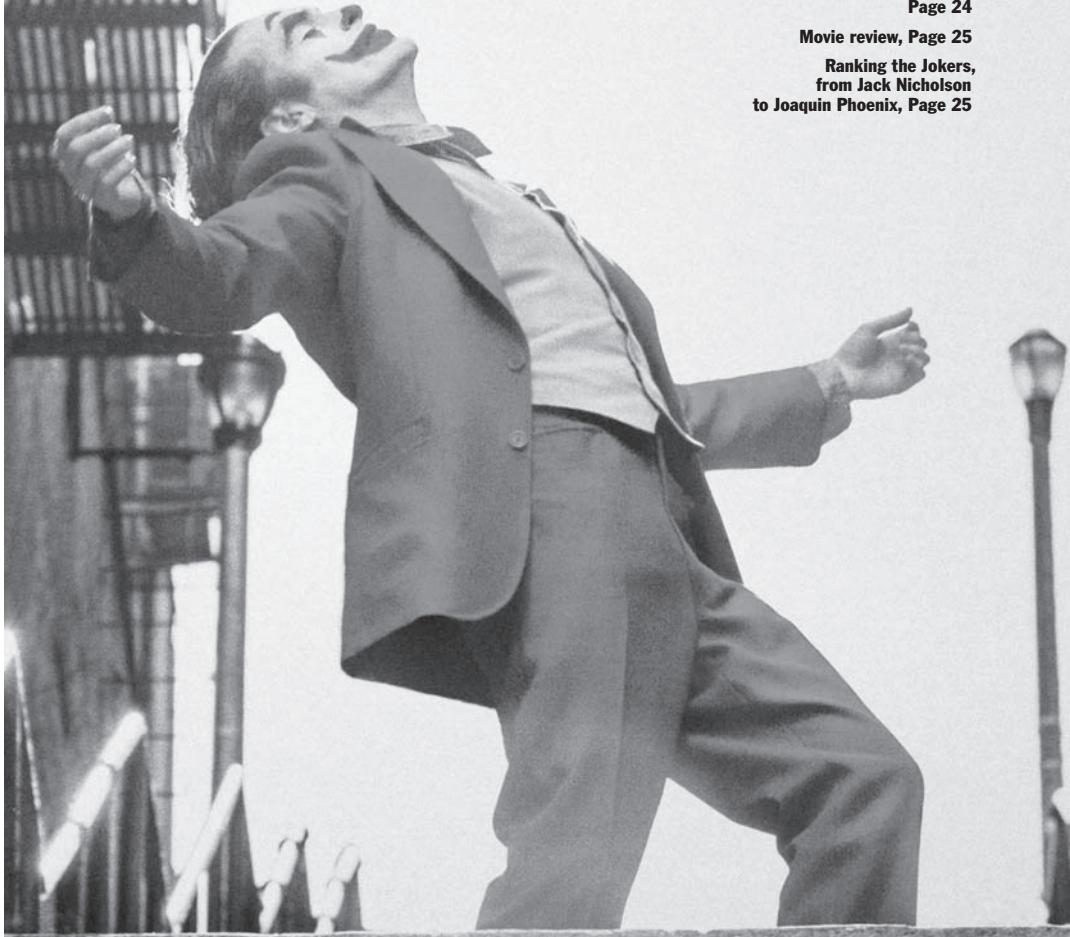
Complicated character

'Joker,' an origin story of classic Batman villain, draws condemnation and cheers before it reaches theaters

Page 24

Movie review, Page 25

Ranking the Jokers,
from Jack Nicholson
to Joaquin Phoenix, Page 25



WEEKEND: GADGETS



PHOTOS BY JAMES PACE-CORNELSEN/Washington Post

Samsung's Galaxy Fold heralds the return of the flip phone. Right: The crease on the Galaxy Fold's screen mostly disappears from view when it's lit up.

Flip phone flop

Latest from Samsung shows folding trend unlikely to stop

By GEOFFREY A. FOWLER

The Washington Post

You're not going to buy the first folding-screen smartphone. But I know you're curious.

When I flip open the Samsung Galaxy Fold, people in elevators and coffee shops give me a double take normally reserved for Maseratis and exotic birds. It's a phone so big it folds in half, I tell them. It's very delicate. And it costs \$2,000, I add, as their eyes pop out of their heads.

The Galaxy Fold has many flaws, yet it still matters for one big reason: It's bringing back the flip phone. Heaps of people complain smartphones have become too unwieldy to hold and slip into pockets — yet we keep buying devices with larger screens. The Fold is the first major smartphone with one continuous screen that can flex and snap shut like a 2005 Motorola Razr. This thing has the largest screen ever built into a smartphone, yet I could close it up and grip it with one hand.

Living with the Fold for a week proved that we have not yet maxed out on screen space. Closed, it's like two extra-large Snickers bars laid side by side. Opened, it's as big as the screen portion of an iPad Mini, minus all the borders. The Fold's 7.3-inch interior screen offers about 10 more square inches of pixels than even the humongous "Max" iPhone.

What makes the Fold a flop starts with concerns about durability. My review unit remained fully functional over a week of heavy use — but I was terrified by one heck of a warning label listing all the ways I might inadvertently break it. Are you supposed to carry this thing in bubble wrap? At least one other journalist's Fold did break, after just a day of normal use. (Samsung offers Fold owners a discounted \$150 screen replacement in the first year.)

Durability aside, the ridiculous price is enough to scare most folks away.

There will be plenty of debate about whether Samsung jumped the gun in bringing the Fold to market, especially after a botched launch in April. Samsung says it is selling the Fold in limited quantities, and the company has barely been advertising it.

What can we learn from the first folding phone?

More screen is better.

What are you missing by not using the world's largest smartphone? It speaks to a truth about the current relationship many busy professionals have with technology: We will use all the glowing screen we can get.

Reading and burning through email was a delight on the screen that's about as wide as a book, allowing my eyes to bounce around less. My biggest revelation was multitasking: I could work

on the screen with two Android apps side by side, as though I had two phones in front of me.

Taking photos with the Fold is also eye-opening. Unfolded, there's about twice as much image there to frame your shot as you get on any other smartphone. It's hardly a discreet way to snap shots, but what photographer doesn't love getting a closer view of what they're capturing?

Even with all that extra screen to power, battery life was not a major concern. On a single charge, my Fold lasted from dawn until at least 9 p.m. most nights.

Make peace with a crease

When the interior screen is open, you can see — and feel — a slight ridge where it folds up. This ridge is most visible when you're surrounded by bright ambient light, and mostly melts away when the screen is lit up with bright content. I think we'll get used to this, kind of like the "notch" at the top of devices such as the iPhone that contains front-facing cameras.

The "closed" experience needs a rethink

The Fold includes a slender screen on its front surface that's supposed to be a fully functional smartphone on its own. It isn't. That screen — measuring 4.6 inches on the diagonal but just two inches wide — is so thin that apps and words appear tiny.

Durability is a fatal concern

There's an unforgivable contradiction in a device that's supposed to make working and playing on the go easier but is delicate enough you would think twice about taking it everywhere.

Samsung included a warning label on the Fold that keeps away hard fingernails, dust and anything wet. To live on the edge, I did take my Fold out on a sandy beach. It survived, but I wouldn't recommend even taking one near a bag that's ever been to the beach. The hinge that allows the device to flex could let in water and detritus.

Samsung says it used robots to test that the Fold could open and close its OLED screen at least 200,000 times. But a robot test by warranty firm ArariaTrade found the screen developed problems after just 18,500 folds.

May more shapes (and weights) bloom

The Fold ultimately feels most like a portable tablet. Even when it's folded in half, that much screen and battery is heavy — 9.28 ounces — a third more than other flagship phones.

Perhaps the idea of a folding screen will find its best expression in different forms. How about using the tech to let phones return to even smaller sizes? Or maybe a flat format will be most useful on even bigger devices.

Whatever comes next, it's clear that screens are about to get interesting again.

GADGET WATCH

Podcasting starter kit easy to set up, fun to use

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

Idislike the sound of my voice, which is not uncommon. Some people don't recognize their voice when it's played back to them. With that in mind, hearing my voice was, by far, the only bad part about reviewing the MXL APS podcasting bundle starter kit.

Setting up and using the all-in-one system was easy. What I wasn't prepared for was having something to record. But, it was just a test, so I decided to talk about my potential holiday shopping list.

The kit includes an MXL BCD-1 Live Broadcast Dynamic Mic, an MXL BCD-Stand, and an MXL Mic Mate Pro for a high-quality XLR-to-USB connection.

The BCD-Stand looks similar to a desk lampstand, with an articulating hinge arm that you can attach to the side of your desk or almost any flat surface. Hardware is included to attach the arm to your desk permanently. An XLR cable is built into the arm for a clean setup.

Once the microphone is attached to the adjustable stand, you can swivel it to your preference.

The Mic Mate Pro is an XLR-to-USB cable adapter that you use to connect the microphone to your recording USB source, a PC or Mac (with an adapter) or it can connect to your smartphone, tablet or any recording source.

The key to the system is the MXL BCD-1 Live Broadcast Dynamic Mic, which is impressive with its attractive looks and high-quality glossy black metal design. Attaching it to the stand with its swivel attachment and the XLR cable takes very little time. Metal thumbscrews are on the sides of the microphone for additional help getting the right angle.

Some specifics: the dynamic microphone is 6.2-by-2.0 inches; has a frequency response of

40 Hz-15 kHz; sensitivity is -54 dB re 1 V/Pa; and an impedance of 600 ohms. It has a 3.5 mm headphone port for connecting headphones or earbuds.

I have very little experience with podcasts, so I didn't know what software to use. Since I have Apple's GarageBand on my computer and I've had experience with it, I was my go-to choice.

The MXL APS podcasting bundle is essentially plug-and-play without the need for drivers or software. Once the hardware is connected and plugged into your source (MacBook Pro for testing) and you have something to talk about, you're all set.

So now to my podcast, which was kind of fun. I have no future in the podcast world, but using the MXL APS Podcasting Bundle was as easy as can be with excellent results. Once I got over the way my voice sounded and made a recording, I was happy with it; I let my wife listen along for her opinion.

I got a two thumbs up from her on quality, but a thumbs down on my recorded words: "I know my wife will be listening to this test recording, so I'm choosing to not disclose what's on my shopping list for her at this time."

The clarity of the recordings was rich and crisp. Obviously during post-production you can make adjustments, but I went with the direct recordings.

Together, these products provide the essential hardware components you need to start a high-quality audio podcast with great results and incredibly easy and timeless setup.

A hard black case with a form-fitting foam interior to safely store the microphone is included as a leather pouch for the cables and a USB cable to power the microphone.

Online: mxlmics.com;

\$299.95



The MXL APS podcasting bundle starter kit includes an MXL BCD-1 Live Broadcast Dynamic Mic, an MXL BCD-Stand and an MXL Mic Mate Pro for an XLR-to-USB connection.

MXL/TNS

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

Rejuvenated by 'Dolemite'

On the heels of his new Netflix biopic, Eddie Murphy planning a return to stand-up comedy

BY JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

Eddie Murphy is very fond of his couch. He talks about it a lot. It's where, according to Murphy, he's spent much of his last few years, in a happy retreat from the public eye. He's a natural homebody, content to stick close to his Los Angeles home with his family around him. One of the funniest, most electric comedians ever — the leather-suited dynamo of "Delirious," the street-wise rebel of "Beverly Hills Cop" — just lounging.

But after a decade of relative relaxation — a time of half-hearted comebacks, movies that fizzled and occasional music projects — Murphy is back. He is — and this is big news — feeling it again, decades after he last performed stand-up.

"When I'm being funny, there's this spirit that comes up," Murphy says. "That spirit comes up in me a lot now. Stuff's just been coming out of me like it used to. This movie has got my spirit up. This movie got me off the couch."

The movie is "Dolemite Is My Name," which opens in theaters Friday and arrives on Netflix Oct. 25. In it, Murphy plays Rudy Ray Moore, the iconic comic performer whose pimp persona, Dolemite, spawned a long-running stage show, a series of profane comedy records and the shambling 1975 classic Blaxploitation film "Dolemite."

Murphy's performance as Moore has all the familiar charisma and exuberance of peak '48 Hours'-era Murphy, but mixed with a more mature and gentle side of the 58-year-old comedian. It's the Eddie Murphy we've been missing, one that Murphy was ready to rejuvenate. At least under the right circumstances.

"I didn't want to just pop up out of nowhere. I was waiting for a really funny movie. We were thinking I could tour after a 'Coming to America' movie but this movie came out so funny," Murphy said in a recent interview from Toronto where he was momentarily breaking from production on a "Coming to America" sequel. "This movie turning out the way it turned out made me go, 'I'm going back to 'SNL.' And I'm doing stand-up."

In December, Murphy will host "Saturday Night Live" for the first time since 1984, shortly after he departed the sketch show. And he's prepping a return to stand-up with a tour next year along with a Netflix special.

When it's pointed out that people would have been plenty thrilled for those things, regardless of the big-screen lead-in, Murphy replies with a grin: "I didn't want to show up there and the last movie you've seen me in is 'Mr. Church.'"

And "Dolemite Is My Name," thankfully, is no "Mr. Church." Directed by Craig Brewer



Netflix

When Hollywood shuts him out, Rudy Ray Moore (Eddie Murphy, center) strikes out on his own to make the 1975 blaxploitation film "Dolemite." Co-starring Wesley Snipes and Keegan-Michael Key.

MOVIE REVIEW

Murphy shines in vulgar, heartfelt 'Dolemite'

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

For the amount of cursing, vulgarity and nudity in "Dolemite Is My Name," it might come as a surprise that it's actually a rather sweet and heartfelt film. "Dolemite" is not here to shock and scandalize. It's simply a loving, R-rated portrait of Rudy Ray Moore, a nobody who had the guts to believe himself when no one else did, featuring a killer comeback performance by Eddie Murphy.

The self-proclaimed "Godfather of rap," Moore was an Army veteran, stand-up comedian, musician and born performer who in the 1970s came to niche prominence for his rhythmic and raunchy Dolemite act. That character would beget both stand-up albums and the 1975 Blaxploitation film "Dolemite," a low-budget production that made some \$10 million at the box office.

But it's almost irrelevant whether you know Moore's name well, and how he inspired the likes of Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg, or are learning about him for the first time: "Dolemite Is My Name" is just a good piece of entertainment. And it's the kind of film that will help his legacy live on.

"Dolemite Is My Name" transports you to Moore's 1970s Los Angeles, thanks to Ruth E. Carter's evocative costumes and Clay Griffith's production design. There's nothing terribly interesting about the way it's told, it's just a straightforward underdog story with a big beating heart.

Murphy plays Moore with a wide-eyed eagerness we typically only see on screen in much younger characters. He's constantly told no or to stay in his lane. Even his friends (Craig Robinson, Mike Epps and Tituss Burgess among them) look at him with that kind of half-pitying/half-supportive smile that will leave the audience wondering if this is just a big dreamer who

might not actually make it.

But he has an eye for talent and at a low point borrows some material from a local homeless man about a larger-than-life character named Dolemite, and finally he's got people's attention. But there are still many challenges he'll have to overcome to get an album made and then released. And we haven't even gotten to the cult classic movie yet.

While it's a joy spending time with Moore as he ascends in the comedy world, the film really kicks into gear when he gets the idea to make a film one night after he and his buddies decide to see a movie — something funny — and are left scratching their heads at a packed showing of Billy Wilder's 1974 remake of "The Front Page" with Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, wondering what the appeal is.

So they decide to make something that they want to see (kung-fu, nudity and action are a few of the requirements). Moore scrapes together money, friends, acquaintances, some strangers (a playwright played by Keegan-Michael Key, and actor D'Urville Martin, played by Wesley Snipes) and a few film school students and sets off to make a feature. The only problem? None of them really know how to make a movie. But they do their best which is often funny and always endearing.

Aside from Murphy, who eases back into stardom seamlessly, the other standout performance comes from Da'Vine Joy Randolph, a Tony-nominated stage actress who bursts off the screen as comedian Lady Lee. Moore "discovers" her one night on tour as someone with presence.

"Some people walk around with their own personal spotlight," Murphy's Moore tells her. The same could be said of Randolph, or Moore himself and it's a lovely thing to have a very good film like "Dolemite Is My Name" to show off both.

"Dolemite Is My Name" is rated R for some sexuality, full nudity and brief language. Running time: 118 minutes.

("Hustle and Flow"), it's an ode to DIY filmmaking and to Moore, who through sheer toil and pluck, carved out a place for himself and others in a movie industry that offered little room for African Americans.

Murphy first tried to get the film going years ago after meeting with Moore, shortly before his death in 2008.

"There was no Netflix then. That was just a crazy thing we were trying to put together," says Murphy before slipping into the voice of an incredulous film producer: "A Rudy Ray Moore biopic? And you're just coming off 'Pluto Nash'? I don't know if we're going to get financing."

To write it, Murphy sought out Larry Karaszewski and Scott Alexander, the screenwriting team behind another affectionate portrait of a movie-making striver whose enthusiasm surpassed his filmmaking proficiency: "Ed Wood."

But when they couldn't get the film off the ground and as years went by, Karaszewski says, "We sort of felt the whole thing had passed us by." Other plans for a "Dolemite" remake or a biopic of Moore floated around Hollywood, never coming to fruition. The project was revived, the writers say, after their success creating the miniseries "The People v. O.J. Simpson." With their new industry capital in hand, they asked if Murphy wanted to give "Dolemite Is My Name" another try.

"Eddie hadn't made a movie in a while but we always felt that this movie doesn't exist unless Eddie is doing Rudy Ray Moore," says Karaszewski.

Murphy has long adored Moore. His movies, Murphy says, were "the best thing to watch when you smoked." "Dolemite Is My Name" goes beyond Dolemite, capturing Moore assembling his over-the-top character bit by bit, a transformation familiar to the mild-mannered Murphy.

"I'm nothing like any of my characters. I'm this guy. What I like to do the most is be around my family, sit on the couch, strum the guitar," Murphy says. "Even when I'm doing stand-up comedy, it all comes from little snippets of stuff I've really said. But once I put it all together into a structure and go up there in a leather suit, I'm not that guy."

"Dolemite Is My Name" achieved something that nothing else could: It got Murphy back on the stage. To film scenes of Moore performing in small clubs, Murphy was again in front of a microphone, telling jokes and riffing.

Murphy has lately been regularly dictating potential new material into his phone. He estimates he already has enough for 15 or 20 minutes.

"The muscle that always came up with jokes, I never stopped using that muscle," says Murphy. "At the core, I'm a funny person. I'm a funny guy."

WEEKEND: MOVIES

100
serious?

Some are calling Joaquin Phoenix's 'Joker' dangerous and irresponsible, while others hail it as Oscar-worthy

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

here may be no such thing as bad publicity, but the spotlight on "Joker" is testing the limits of that old cliché. The origin story about the classic Batman villain has inspired pieces both in defense of and against the movie. It's been hailed as the thing that's going to finally get Joaquin Phoenix an Oscar and also decried for being "dangerous," "irresponsible" and even "incel-friendly." Last month, some parents of victims of the 2012 Aurora movie theater shooting even wrote to the Warner Bros. CEO asking for support for anti-gun causes. The studio issued a statement in response saying that the film is not "an endorsement of real-world violence of any kind."

In his 80 years as part of the culture, the Joker has always had a way of getting under people's skin — whether it's because of who the character appeals to, what he represents or even the stories actors tell about how they got into character. But perhaps the biggest irony of all this time around is that all the discourse and hand-wringing occurred before the film, now playing, even opened in theaters.

It's made for a complicated release for the high-profile film, which got off to a triumphant start premiering at and then winning the top award from the Venice Film Festival. And while reviews are mostly positive, it's also been heavily scrutinized and put the filmmakers on the defensive. Director and co-writer Todd Phillips doesn't mind the discussion.

"I'll talk about it all day," he said. "I'm not shy about it."

He just wishes people would see the movie before drawing conclusions.

"It's a little troubling when people write think pieces with-

out having seen it. And even in their think pieces write, 'I don't need to see it to know what it is.' I find it astounding, to be quite frank, how easily the far left can sound like the far right when it suits their agenda," Phillips said. "To that point, I've been disappointed."

The pre-emptive backlash is all the more baffling to Phillips because he hopes it inspires conversations: About guns, about violence and about the treatment of people with mental illness.

"Part of the reason we made the movie is a response to the comic book world of movies," Phillips said. "Like, 'Why is this celebrated? Why is this funny? Why is this fun? What are the real-world implications of violence?'"

The film itself is a slow-burn character study of how a mentally-ill, middle-aged man named Arthur Fleck becomes the Joker. When the audience drops in on his life, he's working as a clown-for-hire, living with his mother in a run-down Gotham apartment and checking in occasionally with a social worker. He has a card that he gives to people to explain that his spontaneous

and painful bursts of laughter are because of a medical condition. His only joy seems to be watching a talk show host, Murray Franklin (Robert De Niro), in the evenings.

"The truth is, you see it and it's heartbreaking. And he's heartbreaking," Phillips said. "And you know what happens in the movies when you have a world that lacks empathy and lacks love? You get the villain you deserve."

It's a role that has often required actors to go to difficult places, and "Joker" has the added complication of being more realistic than most of the other depictions even though it's still set in a fictional world. To play Arthur and Joker, Phoenix researched a number of people that he's reluctant to even name.

"Some of the people I studied, I feel what they crave is attention and notoriety," he said. "I don't feel like they deserve any more of that."

He also underwent a drastic physical transformation, losing 52 pounds on an extremely calorie-restricted diet with the supervision of a doctor. He expected "feelings of dissatisfaction, hunger, a certain kind of vulnerability and a weakness." Instead, he found the emaciation led to a physical "fluidity" that he didn't quite anticipate.

The set was also fairly fluid in a way, and Phoenix said he and Phillips were constantly discovering new elements to Joker and Arthur.

"There seemed to be an infinite number of ways to interpret every moment or how he might behave in any moment. And there wasn't anything that didn't make sense. So we would do scenes so many different ways and some would cry and others I would make jokes and others

I would be angry and it would be the same scene and they all (expletive) made sense," he said.

It made the experience constantly "exciting" and "surprising," but portraying Arthur/Joker also proved to be "messy and uncomfortable" for the 44-year-old actor.

As for whether or not audiences will use the character as an inspiration or excuse to act out, Phoenix said that the onus is on the individual.

"I do think that the audience should be challenged and they should be able to know the difference between right and wrong. I don't think it's the filmmaker's responsibility to teach morality," Phoenix said. "If you don't know the difference between right and wrong, then there are all sorts of things that you are going to interpret in the way that you want."

Both he and Phillips made sure to stress that "Joker," which is rated R, is not a kids' movie. It also won't be for everyone.

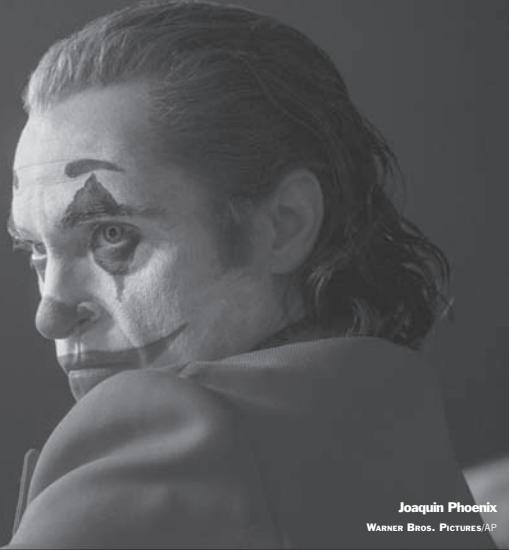
"I just hope people see it and take it as a movie," Phillips said. "Do I hope everyone loves it? No. We didn't make the movie for everyone. Anytime anyone tries to make a movie for everyone it's usually for nobody ... You have a choice. Don't see it is the other choice. It's OK."

'We didn't make the movie for everyone ... You have a choice. Don't see it is the other choice. It's OK.'

Todd Phillips
"Joker" director and co-writer

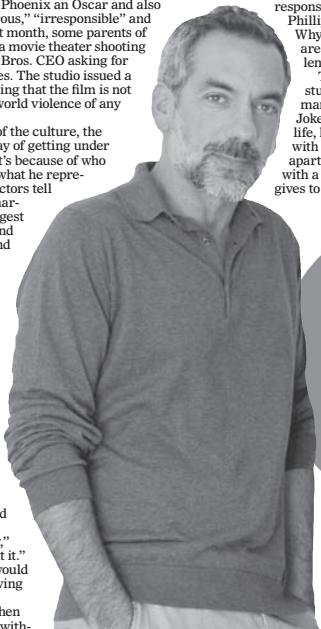
Director Todd Phillips says he doesn't mind discussions about controversy involving "Joker," but he wishes people would see the movie before drawing conclusions.

RICHARD HARTOG/AP



Joaquin Phoenix

WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP



WEEKEND: MOVIES

All setup, no punchline

'Joker' wants to be real-world dangerous, but instead is merely grim and desperate

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

With the amount of controversy surrounding it, "Joker" feels more like an idea and less like an actual movie. Could it possibly stand up to the mythology that has sprung up around it, stoked by breathless film festival hype, pre-emptive misanthropic adoration, gun control activists demanding action and some foot-in-mouth interviews by writer/director Todd Phillips? It absolutely does not live up to its undeserved hype, for better or for worse. And while that may be surprising, it's also to be expected.

So what exactly is "Joker"? It's a great trailer. It's two straight hours of Joaquin Phoenix dancing, gracefully and gruesomely writhing his emaciated frame. It's a riff (or a complete rip-off) of "The King of Comedy," down to Robert De Niro cast as late-night talk show host Murray Franklin. It's a '70s look book sprinkled with the broadest, most obvious comic-book mythology and a series of wildly hit-or-miss comic gags (Gary Gitter, really?). It's a virtuosic actor destroying his body to make the undercooked script seem like something more than it is.

"Joker" is cloaked in the kind of pretense that tricks you into thinking there's something more meaningful there:

moodily cinematography, bursts of extreme violence, an actor who doesn't so much as perform but psychically channel a character. But this is all window dressing, smoke and mirrors to distract from the story being painfully thin and told with all the nuance of a sledgehammer. This thing wouldn't pass muster in paneled newsprint, and aside from a few soap opera-style reveals, you've heard it all before.

There is one thing Phillips and co-writer Scott Silver do accomplish effectively, and it's the crux on which the perceived controversy hangs. They manage to build empathy for Batman's most popular villain, the Joker, aka Arthur Fleck (Phoenix). Arthur is a clown who lives with his mother (Frances Conroy) in the outer boroughs of Gotham, struggling with mental illness and a strange condition that causes him to laugh in times of distress. He dreams of a career in stand-up comedy, but he doesn't get jokes. Rather, Arthur is the butt of jokes, which escalate violently in troubled Gotham. When he finally steps into his power as a murderous chaos clown, empathy is what he demands through his violent actions, pushed to his limit by a broken mental health system, a civil society roiled by unrest and a lack of the attention and love he wants.

There is an aspect of the execution Phillips badly flubs, and it just might be the



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Joaquin Phoenix plays a man who dresses as a clown for a living and struggles with mental illness in "Joker," another take on the iconic DC Comics villain.

film's death knell. "Joker" is resoundingly one-note throughout the majority of its running time. Phillips mistaking "unrelentingly grim" for "profound," which just renders the film uninterestingly dull. It could be by design. The brutal boredom makes you crave the sweet release of chaos in the last few minutes, where Joker acolytes riot in the streets, things finally perk up.

That's because "Joker" puts us on that queasy roller-coaster ride with Arthur himself. The empathy Phillips, Silver and

Phoenix create for Arthur and his actions will be a sticking point for many who don't want to look that grease-painted visage in the face, a representation of mental illness and poverty and structural failure pushed to the brink. That empathy might be the most radical part of "Joker," but it's not that radical at all. This "Joker" is all setup, with no punchline.

"Joker" is rated R for strong bloody violence, disturbing behavior, language and brief sexual images. Running time: 121 minutes.

Get a load of them: Ranking the Jokers, from Jack to Joaquin

By DAVID BETANCOURT
The Washington Post

He's the Clown Prince of Crime, but he'll always be the king of comic book supervillains.

The Joker debuted in DC Comics' first issue of "Batman" in 1940, and in movies and TV he continually sparks iconic performances. Love Cesar Romero in the "Batman" TV show? We give you Jack Nicholson. No one can top Jack? Here comes Heath Ledger. Heath wins an Oscar? Let's see Jared Leto. (That's when the streak stopped.)

This week, along comes yet another Joker, Joaquin Phoenix, in the bat-villain's self-titled movie. In the era of ever-expanding superhero entertainment, it appears we'll have a new Joker for every generation. There will never be a last laugh.

Behind the Joker jokes and creepy smiles, the Joker is and always will be pure evil, which makes it all the more fascinating that we sometimes cheer him on — or laugh ourselves. Perhaps the Joker's wildness helps balance out Batman's dark whispers.

Here's where we rank each on-screen Joker.

8. Jared Leto, "Suicide Squad" (2016)

Whatever memorable Joker performance Leto could have given was probably left on the cutting room floor. "Suicide Squad" went through extensive reshoots to lighten up its tone after the bad buzz of "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice." The result? Hardly any Joker at all. The Joker wasn't even the main villain in the final act.

The Joker should never be just a side character, which is why this version never clicked. Other than a few flashback scenes with Margot Robbie's Harley Quinn and some Instagram-gangsta moments in the club, this Joker performance was as pointless as the "Damaged" tattoo they put on his face.

7. Zach Galifianakis, "The Lego Batman Movie" (2017)

Galifianakis' gleeful, kid-friendly Joker was just as adorable as he was crazy. His major hang-up? That he isn't the No. 1 villain in Batman's life, as evidenced by the movie "Batman v Superman." As he hollered to Will Arnett's Lego Batman, "Superman's not a bad guy!"

Galifianakis' Joker didn't bask in darkness so much as he brightened up Gotham City with explosions and glee.

6. Cameron Monaghan, "Gotham" (2014-2019)

You can say this about Cameron Monaghan: He sure had the grin down.

In Fox's "Gotham," the Joker in his purist form can't yet exist because it focuses on Bruce Wayne's adolescence. But Gotham treats us to "Jerome." He's got the face full of mischievous giddiness. The laugh is on point.

Still, "Gotham" gives us too many moments of is-he-the-Joker-or-isn't-he. It's a wacky attempt at a fresh origin story, but it's frustrating to try to figure out.

5. Cesar Romero, "Batman" TV series (1966-1968)

The first live-action Joker arrived in this campy Adam West series, which allowed him to be one of the silliest. He could escape a prison baseball match with an exploding baseball or challenge Batman to a surfing contest.

But nothing was funnier than Romero's refusal to shave off his mustache when applying his Joker makeup up on set. All the powder in the world couldn't make Romero's lip look hairless. He probably figured his smile-a-minute performances and devilish laugh were distraction enough from his disdain of shaving.

4. Jack Nicholson, "Batman" (1989)

What makes Nicholson's turn so iconic is that it appeared he was just being himself.

It worked to perfection. Deadpan gags were his game, from acid-spewing boutonnieres to buzzers that turned handshakes into a murder scene. Even during Michael Keaton's pop-culture moment as Batman, with a superhero suit ahead of its time and a sweet Batmobile, Nicholson's Joker could look at it all and declare he just wasn't that impressed. His Joker refused to accept Gotham's fascination with Batman.

No Joker had better one-liners. ("Wait till they get a load of me." "Where does he get those wonderful toys?")

3. Joaquin Phoenix, "Joker" (2019)

No movie featuring the Joker has ever given such an in-depth look at the man he was before he became a monster. It asks: Would anyone else go just as mad under the same circumstances? We've seen the Joker be lethal before, but never so gruesomely, thanks to an R rating. Phoenix's version is the hero and the villain, in a battle with himself, seeking a sick type of justice. His face always seems to be carrying a burden, even when he forces a smile. His slow-motion dances are brief moments of bliss, but they always precede carnage. Who knew a movie with a Joker and no Batman could work?

2. Heath Ledger, "The Dark Knight" (2008)

Never had the Joker been more horrifying on screen. "The Dark Knight" was Ledger's playground from the opening bank-robbing scene. Gone was the chemically whitened face from the comics, replaced with raccoon-blued eyes and melting war paint. The big smile? Signified by the long, self-inflicted scars on his cheeks.

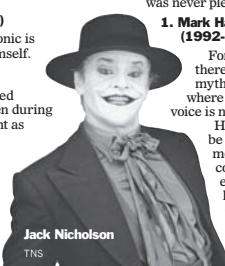
Ledger's Joker basked in the psychological breakdown of his opponents, using questions as verbal jabs. "Why so serious?" "Do you wanna know how I got these scars?" "Do you want to know why I use a knife?" The answer was never pleasant.

1. Mark Hamill, "Batman: The Animated Series" (1992-1995)

For all of Batman's live-action achievements, there is no greater love letter to his comic book mythos than this '90s classic TV show. And where were you when you learned that its Joker voice is none other than Luke Skywalker?

Hamill once said the Joker's laugh should be a musical instrument that illustrated his mood, which is probably why no one else could giggle better. Most on-screen Jokers are set on one emotion. Hamill's Joker had them all: angry, sad, scary and funny. (When a terrified onlooker says "Great Scott!" he responds, "Actually, I'm Irish.")

Hamill managed to create a villain who kept adults compelled even within the confines of a kids' series.



Jack P. Palance

TNS

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



A first-class makeover

Faithful rebuild of Link's Awakening will please fans and newcomers alike

BY CHRISTOPHER BYRD

Special to The Washington Post

In recent years, the Zelda franchise has seen a number of remakes. Ocarina of Time, Majora's Mask, Wind Waker and Twilight Princess have all been recast to take advantage of more versatile hardware. Advances in technology have allowed the masterful game design of these titles to shine even brighter. Arguably, no game in the series has benefited as much from a visual overhaul as the The Legend of Zelda: Link's Awakening, which was originally released in 1993 on the Game Boy.

I never played Link's Awakening when it originally came out. Back then, I was rather put off by the system's monochrome palette, which looked washed out in comparison to the PC games I was into with their sumptuous, 256-color VGA graphics. This was my loss. I imagine that if I'd spent time with it, I would have found in those drab visuals a compensatory vitality because Link's Awakening strikes me as a wonderful companion piece to The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past, probably my favorite game on the Super Nintendo. Both games ably create the illusion that one has fallen into a small, densely packed world like something out of a swaggering fairy tale.

At the start of the updated adventure, Link appears on a boat in the middle of a dark, storm-tossed sea. As he frantically tries to maintain control of his vessel, it's destroyed by lightning. Later, on a sunny day, a young girl discovers him washed up on a beach. After waking up in the home of a villager, he learns that he is on Koholint Island. Though the homeowner tells him that he retrieved Link's shield, the man neglected to pick up Link's sword on account of the monsters that cropped up around it.

After Link makes his way south to the beach and finds his sword, a large owl lands on a flower-decked promontory near him. Putting two and two together, the owl attributes the recent violent behavior of the monsters to Link's appearance on the island. He informs Link that the only way for him to get off the island is to awaken the Wind Fish nestled in a large egg that rests on top of

the mountain which overlooks the island. To accomplish this, Link will have to thread his way through a number of dungeons in which there are instruments capable of stirring the Wind Fish.

Leaving aside for the moment the revamped visuals of the new Nintendo Switch version, Link's Awakening is a testament to how well its developers have adapted, for gaming-on-the-go, the sprawling landscapes for which Zelda is known. Though I played a lot of Link's Awakening on my TV, via the Switch's docked mode, the game feels particularly suited to handheld play because of its snug environments.

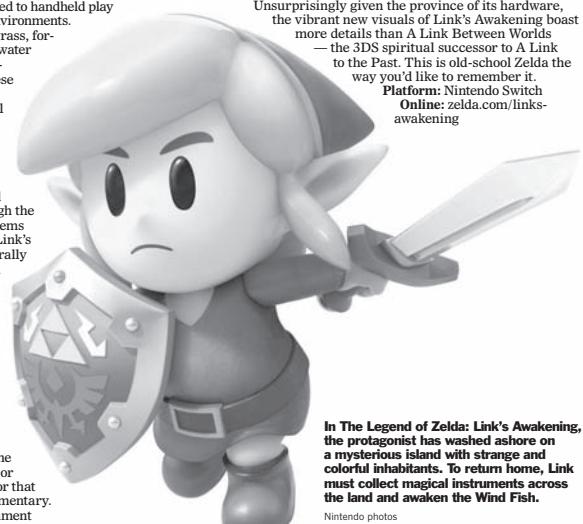
The map, with its grass, forest, rock, desert and water regions, is geographically diverse, and these areas were obviously designed with a small screen in mind. From the trees to the houses, everything appears miniaturized, and the screen is never overcrowded with enemies. Through the haze of memory, it seems to me that bosses in Link's Awakening are, generally speaking, easier than those that originated on consoles. That said, a "Hero" difficulty level is available from the start that makes enemies deal double damage.

Still, the appeal of Link's Awakening lies more in the joy of exploration than in whacking some enemy over the head or the game's writing, for that matter, which is rudimentary. Any emotional attachment

to the game stems more from the act of doing than in listening to something a character says. Sitting on a log on the beach or leading a lost, friendly ghost to its home are the types of sentimental moments that punctuate the story. What makes Link's Awakening a classic is the old formula, pioneered by the Zelda series, of dropping players off in a world brimming with secrets and leaving them to puzzle out what is needed to get from one point to the next. It is as compelling today as it was more than a quarter of a century ago.

Unsurprisingly given the province of its hardware, the vibrant new visuals of Link's Awakening boast more details than A Link Between Worlds — the 3DS spiritual successor to A Link to the Past. This is old-school Zelda the way you'd like to remember it.

Platform: Nintendo Switch
Online: zelda.com/linkswaking



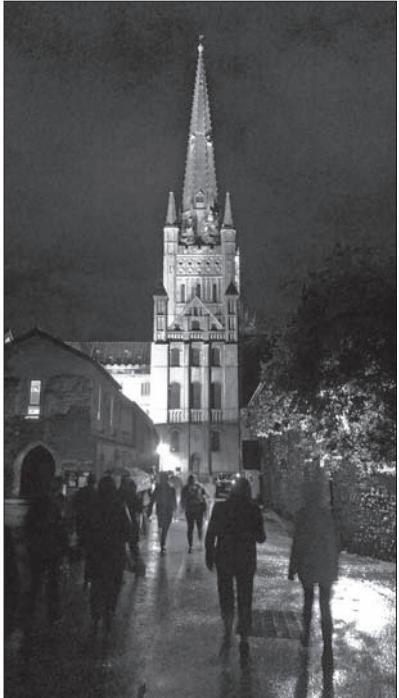
In The Legend of Zelda: Link's Awakening, the protagonist has washed ashore on a mysterious island with strange and colorful inhabitants. To return home, Link must collect magical instruments across the land and awaken the Wind Fish.

Nintendo photos



More game reviews at stripes.com/games

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER DENNIS/Stars and Stripes

Visitors traverse Elm Hill's famous cobble streets during a two-hour Norwich Ghost Walk on Sept. 24. Norwich Cathedral can be seen in the background.

Tales of the DEAD

Take a spooky, informative journey through the city's most haunted areas on a Norwich Ghost Walk

Top: Le Morte describes what happened when the plague raked through Norwich in the 16th century during a Norwich Ghost Walk tour in the Tomb Alley area of the town.

Above: Visitors gather in front of the Adam and Eve pub in Norwich before the start of their walking tour.

By CHRISTOPHER DENNIS

Stars and Stripes

I've never been a fan of Halloween, but I do like history and historical architecture. Add a dash of comedy and interaction to those, and you have the Norwich Ghost Walks. They're a ghoulish good mix of fun, spookiness and history wrapped up in a stroll through the center of Norwich, England, where the walks have been held for more than 20 years.

Ghost Walkers can choose from three walks, all of which start at 7:30 p.m. in front of the Adam and Eve pub, which is near the cathedral, the Great Hospital and the Wensum River that meanders through the city.

I took the Elm Hill Walk on a rainy Tuesday night. We went around Norwich Cathedral and into Tomb Alley, the site of a mass grave for victims of the plague in the late 16th century.

Two dark figures walked up to the pub before the tour started. We learned that they were the Silent Hand, a tall cloaked woman who was the organizer, and our guide for the night, Le Morte, a skinny, rakhish figure in a black top hat and cape adorned with silver skulls.

From the beginning of the walk, Le Morte kept the mood hauntingly light but fun, regaling us with tales of the dead and incorporating walkers into his stories as we made our way along the cobbled streets of the city.

The stories he told covered everything from mur-

der to mass graves, headless horse riders to secret tunnels and other appropriately spooky subjects, made all the more haunting by being told in the dark of night.

We ended up in a dark area behind Norwich Cathedral — under a tree that was once used for suicides and would curse you if you touched it, according to Le Morte — where members of the walking group were invited to share personal experiences with the supernatural.

The night I went on the walk, there were almost 30 people in my group. "The people who attend are about a 50/50 mix of locals and tourists," said the Silent Hand, that tall, cloaked organizer I mentioned earlier.

The tours are not long walks, but you will be on your feet for around two hours on old English cobblestone streets, so bring a good pair of walking shoes or boots and an umbrella if there's rain in the forecast.

While well-behaved pets are allowed on the walks, according to the Norwich Ghost Walks website, you will be outside the entire time, so bringing pets and very young children might not be a good idea.

There is plenty of parking available across from the pub, but bring 2 pounds (about \$2.50) or a little more in change to pay for it. If you arrive after 6:30 p.m., all-night parking is available at a reduced rate.

Norwich Ghost Walks also conduct private shows and a Halloween event at the Cow Tower park near the pub from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2.

dennis.christopher@stripes.com

Twitter: @chrissbdennis



ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Address: In front of the Adam and Eve pub, 17 Bishopgate, Norwich NR3 1RZ

TIMES

Walks start at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from April to Dec. 5.

COSTS

The tour costs 8 pounds (about \$10), and concessions are 6 pounds; make sure to bring a few pounds in coins for parking.

FOOD

Can be purchased at the pub.

INFORMATION

Email: info@ghostwalksnorwich.co.uk

Telephone: 0783 118 9985

Website: ghostwalksnorwich.co.uk

— Christopher Dennis

Europe

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Stockholm's delightful, diverse day trips

Stockholm's inviting medieval center, leafy parks, top-notch sights and exciting urban scene make the city a highlight of any Scandinavian vacation. But don't let Stockholm's charms blind you to the variety of fine day trips at the city's doorstep. Within an hour or so of the Swedish capital, you can bask in the opulence of a royal palace, swing through the home and garden of Sweden's greatest sculptor, see ancient runic stones in the country's oldest town, hang with students in a stately university city or island-hop through Stockholm's archipelago.

West of Stockholm, Drottningholm Palace is the queen's 17th-century summer castle and current royal residence. Though sometimes referred to as "Sweden's Versailles," that's a bit of a stretch. But it is a lovely place to stroll the sprawling gardens and envision royal life. Visitors tour two floors of lavish rooms, filled with art that makes the point that Sweden's royalty is divine and belongs with the gods.

I find the tour at Drottningholm Court Theater even better than the palace's. Built in the 1760s by a Swedish king to impress his Prussian wife (who considered Sweden dreadfully provincial), this theater has miraculously survived the ages. Still intact are the Baroque scenery and hand-operated machines for simulating wind, thunder and clouds. The pulleys, trap doors and contraptions that floated actors in from the sky aren't so different from devices used on stages today.

Another fine destination is Millesgården, dramatically situated on a bluff overlooking Stockholm's harbor in the suburb of Lidingö. The 20th-century sculptor Carl Milles lived and worked in this villa, and lovingly designed the sculpture garden for the public. Milles wanted his art — often Greek mythological figures — to be displayed on pedestals "as if silhouettes against the sky."

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Nuit Blanche in Paris

There's ample reason to stay up late in Paris this Saturday, as the city celebrates its annual Nuit Blanche, the French term for a sleepless night.

The idea behind the event is to expose the public to the many faces of today's contemporary art scene: to this end, it's a night of installations, exhibitions, concerts, performances and outside-the-norm experiences.

This year's theme of mobility comes through in several ways. A beltway surrounding the city is transformed into a velodrome, and a procession made up of marching bands, dancers and other performers sets off from the Place de la Bastille at 7 p.m. Two night marches cover five-mile routes past some of the city's most famous landmarks, and a dozen or so artists take their acts to the streets. Public transport stays open throughout the night, allowing visitors to traverse the city in search of the happenings they find most appealing.

Nuit Blanche begins at 7 p.m. on Oct. 5 and runs to 7 a.m. the following morning. Entry is free. Online: tinyurl.com/y4or7p4a

TOP TRAVEL PICKS



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler

London's big film fest

Movie buffs should find much to their liking at the 63rd edition of the BFI London Film Festival, which opened Oct. 2 and runs through Oct. 13.

What's billed as the UK's leading and most prestigious film festival screens some of the best new films from around the globe and is attended by the elite of the industry. Among the 345 films to be shown are dozens of world and European premieres, 46 documentaries and 160 short films. A total of 77 countries are represented by the films

that made the cut. The agenda includes around 30 free events ranging from Q&A sessions to live concerts.

The festival takes place across 12 venues including Cineworld and Vue at Leicester Square and the cinematheque at BFI Southbank. Ticket prices for screenings in the West End begin at 16.50 pounds (about \$20.40). Online: bh.org.uk

Buskers, beer in Pilsen

Two events make the Czech city of Pilsen a worthy destination over the coming weekend.

The Pilsner Fest on Oct. 5 celebrates the style of beer that was born in this city and has since conquered the world. Here, the original Pilsner Urquell will flow in abundance, and for the first time, representatives from several Czech microbreweries will be on hand to pour samples of their products too. Those curious about the history of brewing may wish to book a brewery tour; these cost 150 Czech Koruna (about \$6.40) per person. More than a dozen musical acts performing on two stages throughout the day set the proper mood for sipping. The fest gets underway at 11 a.m. Entry is



Photos by Rick Steves

Above: The island of Grinda holds nostalgia for many Stockholmers, who fondly recall when it was a summer camp island. Below: Carl Milles' "Hand of God" gives insight into the sculptor's belief that creativity is divinely inspired.

studied 3,000 species of plants and developed a way to classify the plant kingdom.

On a summer day, nothing beats a ferry trip through Stockholm's archipelago, a playground of thousands of islands stretching 80 miles from the city. Ferries serve over a hundred of the islands, often starting with Vaxholm, the gateway to the archipelago. This popular destination has a quiet and charming old town and well-preserved fortress near the harborfront.

Farther from the city — both geographically and in the pace of life — is the isle of Grinda, a car-free and largely forested nature preserve that's laced with walking paths, ringed by beaches and dotted with granite slabs smoothed by glaciers. There's no real town here, but the island does offer a few hotels, a cafe on the marina, and busy ice cream stand. Other fine archipelago stops include the remote isle of Svartsö (great for biking), and the



sandy beaches of Sandhamn — the last stop before Finland.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.



Europapark.de

Halloween at the parks

The once-obscure holiday of Halloween has made impressive inroads in Germany. Here's a peek at the Halloween-themed fun to be had at some of the biggest amusement parks:

Europa-Park in Rust: Through Nov. 3, the thematically decorated park features a sea of pumpkins, and goblins, witches, and demons invade the park's main street. When dusk falls, a 25-minute parade passes through. **Horror Nights — Traumatische**, on selected evenings through Nov. 2, offers five spookily themed mazes, shows and terrifying creatures. A Halloween bash on Oct. 31 features a costume contest and fireworks. Online: europapark.de

Legoland Deutschland in Günzburg: From Oct. 12-31, there's scary fun geared to young ones with roaming ghosts, a trick-or-treat house and a haunted lane. Online: legoland.de

Holiday Park in Hassloch: On Oct. 12, 19, 26 and 31, and Nov. 1-2, Halloween Fright Nights are a mix of family-friendly activities and scares, rock shows and 16 scare zones. Nights conclude with Halloween parades and fireworks. Online: holidaypark.de

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS

Above: A dram of Laphroaig Triple Wood Scotch whisky at Scotch N Soda in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Right: Haggis with neeps and tatties (yellow turnips and potatoes), foreground, and beef goulash with noodles.



A neat place for food, drink

Scotch N Soda in Wiesbaden a whisky lover's dream

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

I am not a fan of scotch and soda. Scotch, yes; with soda, no. More of a neat type of guy.

But when I heard about a gastropub called Scotch N Soda, I decided to give it a try.

First, the establishment claims to offer more than 200 different whiskies and whiskeys, and it seems to have quite an eclectic food menu as well.

A thing about the spelling: it is always Scotch whisky. This same goes for Canadian and Japanese. In the U.S., Ireland and most of the rest of the world, it's whiskey.

Nestled in a pedestrian zone in downtown Wiesbaden, Scotch N Soda looks like your normal pub, with dark wood furniture and TVs showing soccer on the walls. Lining the walls are a selection of the boxes the whisk(e)y bottles come in.

There does appear to be more than 200 varieties to choose from. There's also an extensive drink and cocktail menu. We had a rose wine and a Brewdog Punk IPA with dinner.

The food menu offered everything from soup to beef filet, with hamburgers, schnitzels, salads and flammkuchen in between, with many varieties of each. It also had a page with "House Favorites," with haggis, Irish stew, chili con carne, goulash and more. What it doesn't have is a lot of vegetarian choices, except soups and some of the starters.

My dining companion settled on beef goulash with noodles and I chose the Scottish national dish, haggis with neeps and tatties.

Haggis, for the uninitiated, is a vegetarian's nightmare, commonly comprised of the liver, heart and lungs of a sheep, ground and mixed with beef or



mutton suet and oatmeal, seasoned, then packed into a sheep's stomach and boiled. Neeps are yellow turnips and tatties, potatoes.

Scotch N Soda's version was delicious, nicely seasoned, with the oatmeal almost crunchy.

The goulash was good, too. Nice tender chunks of beef in a deep red paprika sauce, spicy without being hot.

As good as it all was, it was time for the highlight of the evening (except for the company, of course), a nice dram of whisky.

Seeing as we were at Scotch N Soda, it had to be from Scotland. Looking through the menu earlier, I had decided on one from the island of Islay. Now, I only had to select from about 20 choices.

SCOTCH N SODA

Location: In downtown Wiesbaden at Goldgasse 9.

Hours: Daily 11 a.m. to 1 a.m., except Sundays it closes at midnight.

English menu: Yes

Prices: Entrees \$7-\$55; Drinks \$3-\$55. Whisk(e)y \$3.30-\$60

Dress: Casual

Online: scotchnsoda.de

— Michael Abrams

I decided on a Laphroaig Triple Wood. Delicious, with the typical peaty taste and aroma of an Islay scotch.

We'll definitely have a return engagement at Scotch N Soda. We enjoyed the food and drinks, and there are still about 200 more reasons to go back.

abrams.mike@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripes_photog



Scotch N Soda, in the heart of Wiesbaden, Germany.

Europe

Cool, spiced horchata the perfect fall refresher

BY BECKY KRISTAL

The Washington Post

I used to be a travel writer, and one of the pieces of advice I gave and followed the most was to pay attention to shoulder season. London in early April? Cape Cod in October? Yes and yes.

How does this relate to cooking, you ask? It can be just as helpful to think about the shoulder seasons of food, too. You know, light soups in late summer or very early fall, roasted asparagus at the cusp of spring.

My favorite example is horchata. The rice-and-milk beverage from Mexico will quench anyone's thirst on a hot day, but right now for me, it's ideal for that blurred area between summer and fall. Kind of like a short-sleeve sweater, as one of my tasters said. Cold and sweet is perfect for those still-warm early October afternoons, while the more substantial texture created when rice is ground into milk with cinnamon and vanilla hints at the heady spiced fall and winter days to come.

Pati Jinich, one of my go-to recipe sources, calls the drink "super refreshing and sweet." The chef, cookbook author and TV personality (the new season of her public television series, "Pati's Mexican Table," debuts nationwide the week of Oct. 4) says it's definitely something you can play around with. In Mexico, variations include the addition of almonds and sweetened condensed or evaporated milk. To make it vegan, use your choice of nondairy milk, or try coconut water. If you stick with dairy, whole or low-fat milk is best for creaminess. I halved the amount of water



STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

For The Washington Post

Horchata with Cinnamon and Vanilla is refreshing on a fall day, yet reminiscent of cooler days to come.

In Jinich's original recipe, but you can add more (up to 3 cups total), depending on how thin you want the drink. Keep in mind you'll probably be serving it over ice. The amounts of sugar and vanilla are up for interpretation, as well.

The recipe is a cinch to make, as long as you plan ahead. The dried rice needs to soak for at least 2 hours and up to overnight. The ultimate goal is to grind the rice as finely as possible, ideally to the texture of rice flour. Jinich says. A high-powered blender such as a Vitamix can easily dispatch the whole batch at once and give you just the right texture. With a more traditional blender, you will need to blend in batches and return the strained granules of rice to the blender a few times to ensure it is fine enough. The batches I made this way were still very good.

If you've never had horchata, know that it garnishes you good, regardless of your blender, is supposed to be there. "Some people may not be used to it," Jinich says. "It is supposed to be sandy, and hopefully they find the charm in that."

Consider us charmed.

HORCHATA WITH CINNAMON AND VANILLA

6 to 8 servings (makes 6 cups)

Recipe notes: If you can't find Ceylon ("true") cinnamon sticks, which are thinner and less assertive than cassia cinnamon, Jinich suggests substituting a teaspoon or two of ground cinnamon to taste.

The horchata can be refrigerated for up to 1 week. Stir well before serving. Storing it in glass jars makes it easy to redistribute the ground rice with a few shakes.

Ingredients
2 cups long-grain or extra-long-grain white rice

1 cinnamon stick, preferably Ceylon ("true cinnamon"; see *note*)

1 ½ cups hot water

4 cups whole or low-fat milk

¾ cup sugar

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

Ice, for serving

Ground cinnamon, for serving (optional)

Instructions

Place the rice in a medium

bowl and cover with the hot water. Crumble the cinnamon stick over the top. Let it rest, covered, at room temperature for at least 2 hours and up to overnight.

Place half of the rice mixture in the blender with half of the milk, sugar and vanilla, and blend until the rice is mostly broken down. Using a fine-mesh strainer, strain into a pitcher or container. If there is a lot of ground rice in the strainer, return it to the blender with some of the liquid and blend again until smooth. (You should still feel the graininess of the rice, but it should be about as fine as rice flour.) Strain again, making sure almost all the ground rice has gone through the strainer and into the pitcher. Repeat with the remaining rice mixture, milk, sugar and vanilla.

Stir well and serve over ice, or refrigerate until thoroughly chilled. Sprinkle some ground cinnamon on top, if desired.

— Michael Abrams

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

COLLISION COURSE

Large Hadron Collider near Geneva gives visitors a rare look at the future of science

By RICHARD MORIN

Special to The Washington Post

“Don't lose sight of me.” Physicist Abhigyan Dasgupta — “Riju” to his family and friends — looks over his shoulder to caution our 12-member group as we prepare to descend 300 feet beneath the French countryside into the largest machine on Earth: the \$4.7 billion Large Hadron Collider.

Big Science doesn't get much bigger than the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) on the campus of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) facility outside Geneva. The LHC runs in a circular 16.7-mile underground tunnel that crisscrosses the Swiss and French border. More than 1,200 superconducting magnets, each 50 feet long and weighing 35 tons and joined end-to-end, make up the collider's ring. Guided by the magnets, trillions of protons circulate at nearly light speed in opposite directions inside a pair of two-inch-diameter tubes. At four points along the ring, aiming magnets send the two counter-rotating beams crashing into each other.

These collisions blast the protons into subatomic smithereens. Detectors weighing thousands of tons — think of them as giant cameras — positioned at the collision points record three-dimensional images of each of the 40 million proton smash-ups that occur every second. Aided by high-speed computers and algorithms of mind-bending complexity, scientists pore over the tracks left by these impacts for clues about the origins of our universe and the existence of extra dimensions, and for undiscovered particles that might usher in a new era of discovery



Abhigyan Dasgupta, a physicist and CERN tour guide, describes a to-scale cross-sectional photograph of the Compact Muon Solenoid. When in operation, this is as close as visitors come to viewing the 14,000-ton detector that lies in a cavern 300 feet below.



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MORIN/For The Washington Post

Visitors walk among displays in the *Universe of Particles* exhibition hall. Every half-hour, a six-minute “immersive audio-visual experience” tracks the history of the universe and describes the fundamental research questions that CERN scientists are attempting to answer using the Large Hadron Collider.

in the physical sciences.

Our gateway to the collider is the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) on the accelerator ring near Cessy, France, a half-hour car ride from downtown Geneva. The CMS detector is one of seven experiments on the collider's ring and one of the three that visitors may tour.

We enter a cavernous hangarlike room dominated by a 70-foot-high cross-sectional photograph of the CMS detector deep beneath our feet. When the accelerator is running, we are

told, “this is as close as visitors would get to the CMS.”

The Large Hadron Collider is in the first months of a two-year technical shutdown for maintenance and upgrades. During that time, visitors lucky enough to secure a place on a CERN guided tour can go deep underground to visit the cavern that houses the gigantic detectors. When researchers switch the collider back on in early 2021, visitors will receive a more limited underground tour until the next two-year stop in 2025.

“You're extremely lucky,” Dasgupta tells us. “If you had come here a year ago, you would not have been able to go down.”

We round a corner and stop in front of a blocked-off entrance. Dasgupta steps into something that looks like a yellow phone booth. He looks intently at a retina scanner on the wall of the booth. The doors close behind him as another set opens on the other side. “It scans my eyes and it lets me in. The rest of you get to be cargo and go through the cargo door.”

Dasgupta lets us in and we board the freight elevator that will take us 300 feet down to the detector chamber. At the bottom, we pick up orange hard hats fitted with a computer chip so that security can track our precise location. We walk along a long passageway, its walls hung with photos of the collider and informational posters.

Dasgupta, a natural teacher who has just completed his physics PhD at UCLA, switches into data-delivery mode. He explains that, at full power, a proton makes 11,245 trips around the collider ring every second. Instead of a continuous stream, the protons travel in bunches, or packets. Each packet contains 110 billion protons and is spaced 25 nanoseconds apart, an interval of about 25 billionths of a second. Before a proton is annihilated, it will be traveling at 99.9999991 percent the speed of light, he says.

The next 15 minutes pass as a blur. We must hurry; there are other tours behind us. We pass

banks of electronic equipment and computers that tower over our heads, all connected by rivers of wires that snake up to the proton beam tubes.

It is here, Dasgupta says, where electronic hardware and computer software winnow the 40 million collisions that occur every second to the 1,000 most interesting ones. These are stored for further analysis.

We scurry through narrow passageways — banks of overhead lights illuminate our way past danger warning signs and radiation symbols — and descend steep stairs. One more suspended catwalk takes us into the underground cavern that houses the CMS.

The detector is split horizontally in half like a giant melon.

KNOW & GO

Address: Espl. des Particules 1, Meyrin
Online: visit.cern.tours

Didn't win a golden ticket for a guided tour? The CERN campus has much to see and do — and admission is free. Thoughtfully designed exhibits, videos and hands-on displays inside the Microcosm in the reception building tell the story of the Large Hadron Collider and its experiments. Six exhibition areas in the Globe of Science and Innovation explain CERN's mission, while every half-hour a multimedia “immersive audiovisual experience” tells the story of the universe in six minutes.

Bikers and hikers can circumnavigate the full 16.7 miles of the Large Hadron Collider on a route above the LHC ring. Ten exhibition platforms above key points on the LHC explain what's going on below.

Tickets for individual tours go fast; half of the tickets are made available online 15 days before the tour date, and half are released days before. Tours are first come, first served beginning 8:30 a.m. Swiss time. Non-school groups of 12 or more can request tours nine months in advance, school groups three months. Two-to three-hour tours offered Monday through Saturday; free.

The two halves are pulled apart to allow workers access to the detector's inner workings. They will be cinched back together and the proton beam tubes reinserted when the work is complete.

It's anything but compact. The detector measures nearly 70 feet long and 50 feet wide and, at 14,000 tons, weighs about twice as much as the Eiffel Tower.

It's also beautiful. Concentric rings of gold and candy-apple red detectors encircle the proton beam tubes at its center. Lime-green supports help hold the electronics in place. Shimmering metal that looks like aluminum foil catches the industrial lights. It could be a space station. Or a half-billion-dollar piece of art.

We can almost touch it. It's so close and so big, it's everywhere that it's hard not to be awed, overwhelmed and a bit intimidated. I can do little more than stare.

“We need to go,” Dasgupta says, and we begin our journey to the surface.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

FROM PAGE 30

CERN each year draws researchers from 23 countries and several hundred thousand tourists to its campuslike grounds at the foot of the Jura mountains. The Dalai Lama has paid a visit. So have Metallica and King Juan Carlos of Spain. Tom Hanks, Al Gore, Richard Branson, Patti Smith and the Black Eyed Peas also have toured the collider.

The acronym CERN is derived from the French words Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire. CERN was founded in 1954 as one of Europe's first joint ventures after World War II. Right now, 23 member countries together pay \$1 billion a year to keep CERN's lights on and the molecules spinning.

Work on the CMS experiment began in 1999. Dasaugut said the detector recorded its first proton collisions in 2009. Three years later, CERN rocked the scientific world when its researchers announced that CMS and ATLAS, its sister experiment on the collider's ring, had discovered the elusive Higgs boson. The discovery ended a 50-year search for what became known as the "God Particle," the last piece needed to validate the Standard Model of particle physics, the theory that explains three of the universe's four fundamental forces — except for gravity — and all its elementary particles.

The announcement was made in a packed CERN auditorium on July 4, 2012 — a date that some physicists celebrated as "Higgsmas." Today, an empty bottle of champagne, opened and drained by those researchers, is displayed on the wall of the Microcosm, the museum-like permanent exhibit in the CERN reception center that takes visitors on a virtual tour of the collider and its key experiments.

"We get tour requests for three times more visitors than we can accept," said Francois Briard, CERN's head of visitors and local engagement.

Briard and his staff of four apportion out available spots on guided tours. School groups get top priority. Next they try to accommodate requests for groups of 12 or more. Individuals get what's left. Last year, school groups filled about two-thirds of all tours while the remaining slots fell about equally to non-student groups and to individuals. The tours are led by volunteer guides, nearly all of whom are CERN researchers.

"We cannot guarantee you will go underground. But there are wonderful things to see on the surface," Briard said. "We have 20 places to show visitors; only five are underground, and these five are inaccessible much of the time."

Today, even visitors who don't know a proton from a futon can get caught up in the sense of discovery and wonder as they stroll past billions of dollars of exotic technology and peer over the shoulders of working scientists as they attempt to unlock nature's most closely guarded secrets.

"This is a place where science takes place," Briard said. And the view of science from the inside can be breathtaking.

To visit CERN, he said, is to "be amazed."

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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific

Tropical dreams

Treasures on land, in sea make inhabited Okinawan island of Iriomote a rare jewel

BY AYA ICHIHASHI

Stars and Stripes

If anyone asks me to pick my favorite from the 15 inhabited islands that I've visited in Okinawa prefecture, there is no hesitation: Iriomote.

Iriomote Island is a 45-minute ferry ride from Ishigaki Island, which is a 50-minute flight from Naha, on the main island of Okinawa.

Ninety percent of Iriomote is covered with untamed evergreen and mangrove forests, mountains and rivers. I've visited there four times and every visit makes the island more special. There is so much to do there; I recommend at least a three-night stay to cover both land and sea.

This article will focus on the sea side of Iriomote. Connections can be made from Ishigaki to two ports on Iriomote — Ohara and Uehara. These ports are the largest neighborhoods on Iriomote, but I prefer Uehara for its convenience, such as tours and restaurants. At the Ishigaki Port ticketing counter, I choose Uehara Port.

The familiar face of Captain Makoto Azuma met me as I disembarked from the ferry at Iriomote. He and his wife, Yuka, run a two-room lodge called Akorclor as well as snorkeling and fishing tours.

Captain Azuma's favorite destination is a region on the island's west side called Okuiriomote, a secluded area that includes the village of Funauki and

the sites of former villages Amitori and Sakiyama.

The captain moved to Iriomote from Aichi to become a scuba instructor more than 20 years ago, so I trust he knows the best spots for a day trip.

I felt like I've come home when I dropped my luggage at the guest room at the Akorclor. Yuka welcomed me with a slice of fresh peach pineapple just harvested that morning from a local farm. Iriomote peach pineapple is, I think, the best pineapple on Earth, and I want everyone to try it.

A self-service pineapple stand near Nakano Beach — just a 5-minute walk from the lodge — sells frozen, ready-to-eat peach pineapple on a skewer for only 100 yen (less than \$1). I usually buy four or five skewers for breakfast and a fast snack. I also buy whole pineapples to take home with me.

I grabbed my snorkeling gear and, with the captain, drove to a small port where he anchored his boat. I hopped aboard and we were ready to go.

Our first stop, Amitori, is the place to find many blue tangs (like Dory from "Finding Nemo") and bright red sea goldies. Captain Azuma also knows where to find some of the fish I love the most, humphhead wrasses and whitetip reef sharks.

At our next stops — Funauki and Sakiyama — Yuka and I went snorkeling together all afternoon. Relaxing afterward on the boat on a hot and beautiful ocean day, eating an onigiri rice ball for a quick refuel, surrounded by beautiful evergreen mountains, I could not ask for more.

The next day, I took Ray Reef's snorkel tour focusing on Barasu and Hatoma islands, which are a little less than 3 miles from Iriomote. Barasu is a shoal made entirely of coral fragments and appears only during the low tide.

When the wave rolls onto Barasu's surface, you can hear coral fragments make clinking sounds that are soothing to hear in the water. The water is crystal clear around Barasu, which is surrounded by seemingly endless branch coral beds.

I saw seven hawksbill sea turtles there, and let me tell you — a hawksbill turtle is a rare sight, especially compared to the most common of the species, the green sea turtle. I've seen hundreds of turtles by now, and I think the ratio is about 60 green turtles to 1 hawksbill. Can you imagine how excited I was to see seven hawksbills in one day?

Captain Manabu Kawamitsu anchored the boat near Hatoma Island to prep taco rice for lunch. It was delicious, and afterward we strolled the island neighborhood to digest our lunch.

Hatoma is very quiet, and only about 50 residents live on the island. Captain Manabu took us past a few more beautiful reefs of table coral, and every point was breathtaking and amazing.

If you don't visit Iriomote, you are missing out on some of the best that nature has to offer.

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Considered a hidden paradise, Iriomote in Okinawa prefecture can be reached only by boat.

AYA ICHIHASHI/Stars and Stripes



WEEKEND: TRAVEL, FOOD & DINING



PHOTOS BY AYA ICHIHASHI/Stars and Stripes

Barasu, just a few miles from Iriomote Island, is a shoal made entirely of coral fragments and appears only at low tide.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

A flight from Naha to Ishigaki is about 50 minutes; from Ishigaki port, a ferry ride to Uehara or Iriomote takes about 45 minutes.

TIMES

The island is accessible all year round.

COSTS

Tickets to Ishigaki from Naha about \$60 one way with early purchase discount. The ferry from Ishigaki to Uehara port is \$4,510 yen (about \$43) for an adult's round trip, and \$2,260 yen (\$20) for children 6-11.

FOOD

Must-tries include Iriomote's locally grown frozen pineapple from a self-service stand and Yaeyama soba from several restaurants. Reservations recommended.

INFORMATION

Online: painsumus.com/english
Note: Bring lots of yen since most of the tour companies, restaurants, grocery stores and lodges are cash only. An all-day snorkel tour is about \$120 or more depending on your itinerary.

— Aya Ichihashi



Above: Amitorii is the place to find many blue tangs and bright red sea goldies. **Below:** Rare hawksbill sea turtles can be seen near Barasu Island.



The meal set from Toritama includes a chicken omelette on rice with a demi-glace sauce and cheese.

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

Worth crossing the road for

Toritama's heavy, delicious chicken nanban dish something special

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

Chicken nanban might not seem like a novel concept, but in 1965 when the chefs at Ogura restaurant in Miyazaki first put tartar sauce atop their fried chicken — already slathered in sugar vinegar — it started a culinary revolution.

Nowadays, the dish that was born on Kyushu can be found across Japan, from Hokkaido to Okinawa.

On Okinawa, the Toritama restaurant in Yomitan is making its mark. Toritama literally means chicken and egg, and the Okinawa chain's Yomitan location is known for showcasing the best of the two ingredients.

The Yomitan location feels like a pop-up shop. It is compact, quaint and has about half the menu of the Awase location, which closed earlier this year.

Although the Yomitan location is down-sized in comparison, the true star of the show remains: Toritama's renowned chicken nanban, topped in its signature golden tartar sauce.

Meals at Toritama are affordably priced and come in massive portions. Small dishes can start as low as 450 yen (about \$4.16) and sets can cost as much as 880 yen.

Sets include a choice of rice, soup and tamagoyaki — a Japanese rolled egg omelet.

Toritama literature says the company is guided by several principles that help it stand out. It uses eggs only from environmentally safe and sustainable suppliers, and it harvests the eggs used in its dishes the day they are served.

Toritama soaks its chicken in saltwater before cooking, which ensures a tender and juicy bird, and it adds a proprietary soup stock to its tamagoyaki, which gives it a unique flavor and fluffy composition.

The Toritama take on the Japanese staple, nanban, includes a massive piece of crispy fried chicken, which seemed like an entire chicken breast had been pounded out, fried, sliced and doused in sugar vinegar.

Then it was drowned in a heaping helping of golden yellow tartar sauce. Upon



closer inspection, the sauce appears to have been blended with hard-boiled eggs, which would explain the texture and color.

A sign on the wall said that Toritama designed its tartar sauce to be a little sweet because that is the best combination to put on rice.

The nanban, which goes for 680 yen, or \$6.29, by itself, also includes salad. The set goes for \$8.14, comes with a choice of rice, white or grain, chicken stock or miso soup, and a choice of four types of folded egg omelet.

The nanban was delicious and hit all the right notes. The chicken was tender and juicy and the batter crispy; the sugared vinegar was sweet; and the tartar sauce added some tang.

Adding the eggs to the sauce makes the dish incredibly heavy, but it tastes great. Bring an appetite and you should have no problem cleaning that plate.

The add-ons were harder to finish after polishing off the nanban, but the soup, rice and tamagoyaki were also of the highest quality.

Toritama's chicken omelet on rice with a demi-glace sauce and cheese was colorful but equally delicious. It was essentially one of Toritama's tasty omelets topped with cheese, on a bed of rice. Ground chicken cooked in a sweet demi-glace sauce was then spread around the sides.

The chicken was not overcooked, and the sauce was flavorful and sweet, with just the right amount of seasoning. The egg was fluffy and while the dish might not win any awards for presentation, it is a prime example of Japanese comfort food.

Toritama also offers a selection of chicken and egg bowls, called "domes" in Japan, where the protein comes on a bed of rice, chicken skillet, fried chicken



The chicken nanban at Toritama in Yomitan is a bit heavy, but it's put this Okinawa restaurant chain on the map.

TORITAMA

Location: 34 Owan, Yomitan, Nakagami-gum, Okinawa, 904-0313

Directions: About a mile past Kadena Air Base on the right-hand side of Route 58

Hours: Open daily, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Prices: Small plates start at \$4.16. All sets are under \$8.14.

Dress: Casual

Information: Phone: 098-989-3288; Online: restaurant-24365.business-site

— Matthew M. Burke

sets and chicken noodle sets.

Beverages are kept simple with limited choices of water and tea for free and beer and juice for purchase. They also offer homemade pudding and ice cream for 200 yen, or \$1.85.

The beautiful thing about chicken nanban is that while it might seem simple, virtually no two nanbans are the same. Every chef has his or her own take.

Toritama might look like a fast food chain or a ramen shop from the outside, but its version of Miyazaki's most famous culinary contribution is unique and must be ranked with the best.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL



PHOTOS BY HARRISON KEELY/AP

Above: Travelers dine on the Amtrak Crescent on Sept. 9. Below: Harrison Keely and his mother, Sherrie, enjoy dessert in an Amtrak dining car in June.

Days of white-linen dining aboard Amtrak trains coming to a close

BY LUZ LAZO

The Washington Post

Harrison Keely's most fond memories of riding Amtrak all include snapshots of the dining car. The shiny silverware and white linens. Enjoying thick slices of French toast covered with powdered sugar and drenched in syrup while taking in the scenery. The frenches made over a slice of cheesecake.

"There's something fantastic about dinner in the dining car," said Keely, 32, a writer from Brasstown, N.C., who swears by the Amtrak crab cake and steak dinner. "You get to meet other people and hear so many great stories. It is one of the best parts about traveling."

That experience is about to change. Amtrak says it is reinventing its service on long-distance trains, killing the traditional dining car to create more "flexible" and "contemporary" dining options.

The carrier says the change, starting this fall on the one-night routes east of the Mississippi River, is driven by the desire to save money and lure a younger generation of new riders — chiefly, millennials known to be always on the run, glued to their phones and not particularly keen on breaking bread with strangers at a communal table.

Amtrak is doing away with the traditional onboard kitchen, switching to serving prepackaged meals and easing restrictions on the traditional serving times. The change allows the railroad to cut costs associated with cooking aboard and keeping up with the white-tablecloth service that was once known to rival high-



end restaurants and clubs.

Amtrak isn't labeling the change the end of the dining car, but rather an evolution more in line with the demands of this era.

"It is part of an evolution," said Peter Wiliander, who oversees Amtrak's customer experience. "The concept is to provide service the way our customers want rather than have everybody conform to one service delivery."

"Some people really like (the dining car) and view it as sort of a nostalgic train experience," Wiliander said. "Some

people, especially our new millennial customers, don't like it so much. They want more privacy; they don't want to feel uncomfortable sitting next to people" they don't know.

It's that demographic, he said, that Amtrak wants to attract with more contemporary car designs and food options.

For now, the changes are only on Amtrak's one-night routes on the East Coast. The "flexible" dining service for sleeping car customers starts Oct. 1 on the Cardinal (New York-Chicago), City of New Orleans (Chicago-New Orleans),

Crescent (New York-New Orleans) and Silver Meteor (New York-Miami). The shift will happen next year on the Silver Star — a 1,500-mile route from New York to Miami.

For passengers, it will be the end of the freshly prepared meals aboard. No more eggs over easy or the favorite Railroad French toast. No more steak cooked to their liking. Travelers will no longer need to make reservations for the breakfast, lunch and dinner service hours.

Passengers in roomettes and bedrooms, considered premium riders, will have the choice to have meals delivered to their rooms. If desired, they will be able to use a new version of a dining car, open exclusively to them, with booths, but no white linens. Eventually, Amtrak said, it may get rid of the booths altogether and create a more contemporary lounge setting.

The new menu offers a variety of prepackaged meals; for example, red wine braised beef and chicken piccata. In the morning, passengers will be able to pick up a pastry and coffee from a buffet-style continental breakfast.

Coach riders will eventually be able to buy the meals offered to premium riders, but in the cafe car.

Wiliander said the food standards aren't taking a hit, but rather, he said, the meals will be more consistent while the ingredients remain of "high quality." He said the process of preordering and preselecting meals will allow Amtrak to maintain tighter controls of inventory, resulting in savings.

The railroad anticipates the change will save it about \$2 million a year.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

**Honey from the hives
on top of Hotel deLuxe
in Portland, Ore., tastes
different from the honey
produced by the hives
on the chain's other
hotel rooftops.**

Provenance Hotels photos



A sweet deal for hotels

Hosting honeybees supports research, raises awareness and produces an unbeatable treat

By SUNNY FITZGERALD
Special to The Washington Post

If you spot a pair of beekeepers in the elevator of the Radisson Blu Mall of America hotel, don't be alarmed. There's no infestation; it's just business as usual for this Bloomington, Minn., hotel and a growing number of properties around the globe.

Behind the bee veils at the Radisson Blu you'll find University of Minnesota Bee Squad program manager Bridget Mendel tending to hives on the rooftop and collecting data on the resident honeybees by other members of her team. The hotel belongs to the Bee Network, individual and corporate properties that partner with the Bee Squad to host on-site apiaries across the Twin Cities.

Radisson Blu's aim is not to collect honey — though it does so when honey is available, and infuses it into the food and drinks at the FireLake Grill House & Cocktail Bar and into skin-care products for in-room relaxation packages. The purpose of putting beehives atop the hotel is to support bee research and bring attention to a larger issue: the importance of pollinators and the threats they face.

"We're not just talking about honeybees," Mendel said. Other pollinators include butterflies, bats and birds, and "some of them are very much endangered."

The 20,000 species of bees globally are a critical link in the pollinator chain that affects us all. According to a 2016 International Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services report, 75 percent of the world's food crops

— including almonds, avocados, chocolate and coffee — are dependent on pollination, and one of every three bites we eat is thanks to the work of pollinators. Unfortunately, some species of bees are facing issues due to habitat loss, pesticides, disease and climate change.

"Bees are the canary in the coal mine," said chef Matt Sanchez, Marriott International's first licensed beekeeper, who manages more than 30 hives at Sawgrass Marriott in Florida. "They've always been stress beacons for us," humans, he said. For example, if pesticides are used within a three-mile radius of his hives, the bees may die, alerting him to something amiss in the area. "By keeping bees, you're more aware of and connected to everything in your community," he said.

As part of the travel and tourism sector — the second-fastest-growing sector in the world — hotels are uniquely positioned to spread the message and generate buzz about bees and pollinators.

"Every kind of person" walks through the doors of the Radisson Blu Mall of America, Mendel said. Although guests aren't permitted on the rooftop, Radisson and the Bee Squad occasionally bring a few resident bees to the lobby and bar to assist with on-site events that spark important conservation conversations with its global guests — such as "Honey Bee Helper" demonstrations to introduce guests to the honey-making process; and "Bee Happy Hour" featuring special rooftop honey-inspired menu items, with the Bee Squad on hand to answer questions. "They're able to reach a lot of people and provide education," Mendel said. "People start thinking about where their food

Radisson Blu hotel incorporates rooftop honey into their FireLake honey lavender cheesecake.

Radisson Blu Mall of America

comes from ... and suddenly (they're) looking at not only our agricultural food system but all of our natural ecosystems. And they're tied into it."

Court Whelan, director of sustainability and conservation travel for Natural Habitat Adventures, believes travelers are seeking opportunities to better understand and connect to our environment, a trend that is "only going to grow as the world becomes more fragile and imperiled." Furthermore, he added, "in a general sense, travel is the search for the authentic. What is more authentic than having beehives and sourcing your own local honey from the area?"

Local honey quite literally gives you a taste of a place. In Portland, Ore., there are three Provenance Hotels properties within blocks of each other. Yet, as Kate Buska, vice president of brand development and communications, explains, the honey produced in each rooftop apriary has its own distinct flavor, depending on what flowering plants are nearby. "For example, if you taste the honey from Hotel Merriam — which is closest to the river, where there are cherry blossoms — it tastes different from the honey at Hotel deLuxe," she said. "At Hotel deLuxe, you can taste the rose blossoms that are closer to that property."

The ability to connect to the unique "fingerprint" of a place, as Sanchez calls it, makes for a meaningful experience.



Juan Zaragoza, executive chef at Gracie's at Hotel deLuxe in Portland, Ore., extracts honey from the combs.



Whelan said that whether he's leading a trip to Myanmar, Tanzania, Madagascar or some other destination, if there's "a chance to source local honey, people are all over it." Consuming honey from bees that have gathered nectar from local flowers provides "this tangible connection to the local environment through food — something everybody needs and loves."

Travel industry professionals are teaming up with beekeeping experts like the Bee Squad, the Best Bees Co. and Bee Local to create memorable experiences for guests and safe spaces for honeybees to thrive in all kinds of locations: ocean-front at the Terranea Resort in Los Angeles, in the city center at York Hilton Midtown, at quaint Cape Cod B&Bs Aerie House and Sesuit Harbor House, atop luxury hotels such as Taj Boston and the Merrion in Dublin, and in multiple locations across Qatar, thanks to a partnership between Mandarin Oriental Doha and Bu Saif Apriaries.

When you think about it, it makes sense that honeybees are at the heart of a travel-related trend — after all, they are an incredibly social species with an intricate community structure, always on the lookout for an authentic, hyperlocal meal.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

A man in demand

Lukas Nelson on Farm Aid, Neil Young tour and 'A Star Is Born'

BY CHRIS RIEMENSCHNEIDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

When Lukas Nelson talks up the Sept. 21 Farm Aid concert at Alpine Valley in Wisconsin as "a real family affair," he isn't just referring to the fact that his iconic dad, Willie, is the guy behind the annual fundraiser festival.

"We played the full set with Neil, and then we had Margo get up with us during our set, and Nathaniel and the Night Sweats horns, too," the 30-year-old singer and bandleader said.

Neil, if you haven't been paying attention, is Neil Young; Nelson and his band Promise of the Real have served as Young's backing unit off and on for five years after first hooking up at Farm Aid. As for old-school country tunesmith Margo Price, she sings on Nelson's newest album, while soul rocker Nathaniel Rateliff and the Night Sweats have shared many bills with Promise of the Real.

Nelson also nonchalantly brought up "Stefani" and "Bradley" when asked about his role on and off screen in last year's film "A Star Is Born."

"A real trip," is how he summed up his Hollywood experience, which found him co-writing and recording several songs for the soundtrack with Lady Gaga (aka Stefani Germanotta) and Bradley Cooper. He and Promise of the Real were then asked to serve as the lead actors' backing band in the movie.

With all those other famous friends wanting to work with him, no one could accuse Lukas of riding Willie Nelson's ponytails anymore. He actually hasn't for a long time.

Lukas Nelson, front, and Promise of the Real have been in high demand since landing a gig as Neil Young's backing band five years ago. In addition to opening for the Stones and The Who, the band had an on-screen role in "A Star Is Born."

Joey Martinez

The long-haired, scraggly bearded musician — who split his youth between Maui and Texas — has been kicking around, playing his own brand of southern-flavored rock, gritty blues and alt-twang music, for close to a decade.

Lukas landed a few songs on his dad's albums in the early 2000s, including the surprisingly heartbroken "You Were It," written at age 10, and "Over You Again," a collaboration with his younger brother Micah, who now tours with his own band, the Particle Kid.

"Songwriting is just something I always knew I could do," Lukas said. "I knew I needed to get better as a guitar player and a singer, and I hope I have improved as a songwriter, too. But I just felt like songwriting was something I always understood, and it's still my greatest strength."

His prowess as a writer certainly comes to light on his new album with Promise of the Real, promisingly titled "Turn Off the News (Build a Garden)." The mantra-like title song reflects Nelson's hope to find — and provide — more positive distractions from the nonstop social-media and news cycle.

Nelson could only laugh, though, when asked if he has built a garden, as the lyric suggests.

"I have another 50 songs I want to record," he responded, "so I guess you

could say that's my garden."

Lukas Nelson on ...

His film and soundtrack duties for "A Star Is Born": "I gotta say, a musician's hours are a hell of a lot better than an actor's. But I'm really grateful to Stefani and Bradley for bringing me in and really helping me grow as an artist with that movie, and for spotlighting my band, too. And I'd like to think it was mutually beneficial. A friend told me, when he heard that guitar lick come in for 'Shallow,' he knew it was us and something good was about to come, and that was very rewarding."

"I think one of the things that movie's success showed is that people crave real instruments in their music, and real human emotions, too. And of course that's what we want to represent."

The inspiration behind his new album's title song: "It just came from feeling overwhelmed by all the negativity, particularly from just sitting there watching tweet after tweet. I just thought, 'Well, this doesn't really help anything.' Just being anxious about all the bad news 24-7 doesn't do any of us any good."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

FROM PAGE 36

"We all need to just go out and actually start doing something more positive, whether it's something big like organizing a community event or doing charity work, or just doing something smaller that's better for yourself. Like building a garden."

Getting his dad to sing on the track "Civilized Hell": "He happened to be in L.A. when we were recording at the Village Studio there, so he pulled the bus up. I told the guys at the studio, who are just the greatest, 'My dad's coming by,' and they jumped into action, so he just had to drop in and do his thing. It was just perfect."

Willie's health, which forced him to cancel tour dates: "He's doing really great. He's back on the road now, and Micah is out there with him. He's back to rocking and singing great again. He's 86, you know, so it's kind of uncharted territory to see how long he can keep doing it."

"You can count on half a hand the artists that have gone this long. This is right around the age B.B. (King) got sick, so Dad is pushing the envelope. But it's what he loves to do, so I think he'll keep doing it for a good long while."

Bringing Farm Aid to Wisconsin's Alpine Valley Music-thesatre: "Oddly enough, our very first rehearsal with Neil was there (in 2014). We were getting ready for a European tour, and there was a show in Milwaukee ahead of that, so we set up down there. I remember that well. I got to play my golf there, which I love to do, like my dad."

"And it meant a lot to go there and connect with Stevie Ray Vaughan (who died in a helicopter crash there in 1990). He's just one of my greatest inspirations. This time around, I got to play (the SRV song) 'Texas Flood' with my dad, which we do just about every night we play together, but it obviously meant a lot spiritually to do it there."

How Young decides when to recruit Promise of the Real, as he did for two recent studio albums and tour dates this summer: "Aw, hell no, I have no idea. There's no explaining that guy. (He laughed.) But when we do come together, it feels cosmically right. That's the power of Neil."

"Neil's an inspiration, too, like Dad is. He can still hit those notes and play the way he did in his 20s. B.B. said a legend is someone who has stood the test of time, and I think Neil and Dad both have stood that test many times over just in their own lifetimes, just as B.B. did, and Bob Dylan, too."

Opening for the Rolling Stones and The Who in recent months: "They were all really great to us, and their crews, too. They treated us with a lot of respect. It felt like they really could tell and appreciate that we're a real band, you know."

"I think they recognized that I might be the guy who writes and sings the songs, but more than that I'm just a member of this band. We're a true band. At this point, we're just a really well-oiled machine, and I think we're one of the tightest and best units out there. I really do."

Simpson's latest genre-pushing release breaks free from country

Forget country, outlaw country or whatever Sturgill Simpson's genre-pushing music has been categorized as.

"Sound & Fury" is melt-your-face-off fuzz rock. Simpson describes it as "sleazy, steamy rock 'n' roll" and he's right.

"Sound & Fury" is as much country music as Dolly Parton is punk rock.

Sometimes when an artist takes a left turn, they come off as a poser. Not Simpson. He feels right at home with "Sound & Fury."

It serves as the soundtrack to a Netflix anime film of the same name. The record was recorded primarily at the McGuire Motor Inn in Watertown, Mich., because, well, why not?

The track "Make Art Not Friends" is as close to a mission statement from Simpson as he's ever come. He might not make many friends from those wanting more country from "Sound



Sturgill Simpson is no stranger to pushing the boundaries of country music. With "Sound & Fury," Simpson has pushed it straight into "sleazy, steamy rock 'n' roll."

TNS



Sturgill Simpson

Sound & Fury (Elektra)

& Fury," but it's clear Simpson doesn't much care.

Simpson was never a conventional country singer, even as he won best country album at the 2016 Grammys. If there were any fans who were hoping he would turn more country and less rock, they're going to be sorely disappointed. Angry maybe — with this one.

Maybe that's just what Simpson wanted.

— Scott Bauer
Associated Press

Adam Lambert

Velvet: Side A (Empire)

Adam Lambert's superpower is a seemingly 25-octave voice that can be smooth as velvet one moment, and sharp enough to cut diamonds the next. His new six-song EP, "Velvet: Side A," shows Lambert at the top of his game, toggling effortlessly among dance club thump, guitar-driven rock, '70s funk and power-ballad drama.

This is the fourth solo outing for Lambert, whose "other" job is serving as the lead singer of Queen.

One of the things that propelled Lambert through the "American Idol" ranks was a deep knowledge of and appreciation for vastly different genres of music — and the ability to kill at all of them. The first single, "Superpower," is infused with a Prince spirit (think "Kiss") with its falsetto vocals, and prominent bass lines.

"Stranger You Are" blends rock, hip-hop, a drum beat that would be right at home on a Run-DMC album, and a funky horn section, and blends them seamlessly. It starts with a guitar riff and tone inspired by Creedence Clearwater Revival's version of "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," then expands into brassy bombast.

"Loverboy" could be a No. 1 hit. But then,



it's not much of a stretch to say it already HAS been, when Rod Stewart released "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy" way back in 1978. These two songs are very similar, from chord progressions to the cascading

keyboard fills, the almost identical bass riff and the squiggly disco guitar. The difference here are vocals that not even Rod and all his considerable money could buy.

"Ready to Run" is the rockiest track on the EP and "Overglow" is one of several tracks in which the bass guitar serves as a lead instrument.

"Closer to You" is an emotional ballad in which Lambert lets his diva flag fly, with breathy, melodramatic vocals that are soothing and vulnerable before becoming powerful and soaring enough to shatter glass on the top floor of a skyscraper a block away.

— Wayne Parry
Associated Press

Emeli Sandé

Real Life (Capitol Records)

Emeli Sandé's music has always leaned into the epic. Her clear, full voice powers sweeping anthems, most of which seem perfectly suited for bringing energy to momentous occasions (remember her at the 2012 Olympic Games?), but just as good for motivating everyday people trying to make it through their every day.

"Real Life," her third full-length album, finds the acclaimed British singer-songwriter-pianist keeping her good thing — playing motivator — going. That's good for fans.

That much seems clear from first single "Sparrow," a goosebump-inducing battle cry for the overlooked and undervalued. "We've got magic in our bones, just like the stars we're going to shine bright and golden," Sandé sings, her voice full of resolve.

She is great on the dreamy guitar and drums "Love to Help"; endearing on album gem "Free as a Bird," with its strings and soulful choir; and completely in her groove on "Extraordi-



nary Being." On that song she sings, "You are what God imagined. You are a true perfection. Baby you're made of stars. Don't let nobody tell you different."

It would be difficult not to believe her.

But when Sandé mixes her grandeur with the ordinary, the results sometimes feel mismatched. That's the case with the title track "Real Life," which finds Sandé grappling with the day-to-day challenges of maintaining a long-term relationship. The lyrics are relatable, but the addition of a church organ and gospel choir feels like overkill.

Still, Sandé rarely goes wrong, and overall "Real Life" is another solid album.

— Melanie J. Sims
Associated Press



The Lumineers

III (Dualtone Music Group)

Films, movies, television, books: They all tell stories that allow audiences to see glimpses of themselves. The Lumineers have told their own story in "III," a 10-track concept album composed of three chapters that follows the fictitious Sparks family.

The tale is grounded. While the story follows the destructive path of addiction as it enters the life of matriarch Gloria in Chapter I, the struggle faced by the family is one recognizable to anyone who's had a loved one deal with addiction or has faced it themselves.

It's also a narrative that writers Wesley Schultz and Jeremiah Fraites know intimately. Schultz has a homeless relative who has battled mental illness and addiction. Fraites' brother died after a heroin overdose.

Lyrical, The Lumineers use searing imagery, painting a picture with each song. This picture — the life of Gloria, her son Jimmy and her grandson, Junior — is even further illuminated by the heartbreaking short film that accompanies the record.

The breadth of the project is remarkable. The stunning visual vignettes bring lines to life, such as when Schultz sings, "A little boy was born in February / You couldn't sober up to hold a baby" and you watch Gloria fall, clutching her wine glass, with the baby playing on the floor close by.

The songs stand on their own. Removed from the context of the rest of the album, "Life in the City" is just that — a narrative of navigating a difficult and lonely city life. But within the larger story, it is part of Gloria's battle, as the city entices her with drugs, alcohol and sex.

For their third album, The Lumineers employ their typical sound with piano and the gruff vocals of Schultz pushing to the front. The tracks are not overly produced, giving a raw, emotive feel to each song.

The storyline has moments of hopefulness, but it also makes no promises. While there seems a chance that Junior may escape the cycle of addiction from the generations before him in "Left for Denver," the ending of the short film is ambiguous, questioning if he does get away.

It's an appropriate ending, as it mirrors the reality of addiction. There is always a chance that the cycle will end, but to put the pretty little bow around the narrative would be an injustice to the subject. The Lumineers bring moments of hope, but they recognize the lingering darkness of addiction.

— Ragan Clark
Associated Press

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Attica Locke monetizing her experience

'Empire' screenwriter, author proving there's demand for black stories

By MADHULIKA SIKKA
The Washington Post

Attica Locke always wanted to make movies, and for a while, that seemed to be her destiny. At just 25, after writing and directing fellowships at the Sundance Lab, she had a movie deal. But things fell apart, as they often do in Hollywood, and she ended up a screenwriter for hire in Los Angeles, where the frustrations continued. There was no appetite for her voice, she says, and nobody wanted to make the movies she was interested in.

"It was difficult to monetize my blackness," she says now.

Not anymore. With her fifth crime novel, "*Heaven, My Home*," which came out this month, she's proved that there's demand for stories about black characters, not just on the page but on the screen. It took her walking away from Hollywood to find success there: After three seasons of writing for the hit show "*Empire*," she's also working on the buzzy upcoming series adaptation of Celeste Ng's "*Little Fires Everywhere*."

This is a far cry from where she was more than a decade ago, when she was taking out a second mortgage on her house and giving herself a year to become a novelist.

Her debut, "*Black Water Rising*," was published in 2009 to critical acclaim and was followed by "*The Cutting Season*" (2012) and "*Pleasantville*" (2015). Her books, categorized as mystery or crime, are also unabashedly about black experiences, examining the legacy of black history in the context of modern politics and culture. The crime she really concerns herself with is an existential one: the legacy of America's original sin.

The protagonists in her novels are mostly black men, and she writes with the authenticity of a lived experience. "The greatest wounds I've had in my life have been because I'm black, not because I'm a woman; that's normally secondary," she says. "I felt like I wanted to tell a story about race and gender, for whatever reason, stripping gender out made it easier."

But a funny thing happened while she was carving out her career as a novelist. "Everything that I was trying to do in movies — you know, grown-up stuff and deep character work with sociopolitical themes and all this kind of stuff — all of that work moved to television," she says.

Among that new crop of TV shows was 2015's "*Empire*," the musical drama about the Lyon family, a clan of hipsters and entertainment moguls, a high-end soap opera that combined the bling of "*Dynasty*" with the psychological drama of "*King Lear*," and it was a smash hit.

When Academy Award-nominated director and producer Lee Daniels was creating the show, he wanted not just great writers but "African American voices that understood sort of the world I created."

One look at a sample script from Locke, and he knew he'd found just such a voice. She "blew me away," he says, "and I was blown away by who she was as a person, as a woman, as a writer, and it was a love affair from that point on."

What drew Locke to "*Empire*" was her interest in telling a different black story:



Attica Locke

MEL MELCON/Los Angeles Times

'Heaven, My Home'

Attica Locke

Attica Locke skillfully packs "*Heaven, My Home*" with realistic and, at times, uncomfortable situations as she depicts complicated characters.

In African American Texas Ranger Darren Mathews, Locke has fearlessly shaped a character that constantly walks a tightrope of being a good man with a quest for justice and being an extremely flawed person with a "fear of falling off the cliff of his own moral ambiguity." His "twisted moral compass" infuses how he

does his job, his marriage and his relationships with everyone in his orbit. Introduced in Locke's Edgar-winning "*Bluebird, Bluebird*," Darren embodies the epitome of the complex hero — both immensely appealing while succumbing to his flaws.

"*Heaven, My Home*" finds Darren

"How do you go from a working-class existence to being a mega, mega, mega millionaire?" she says. "And how do you navigate the newness of that wealth?"

According to Daniels, Locke was especially adept at channeling the voice of matriarch Cookie Lyon, a standout character played by Taraji P. Henson, who won a Golden Globe for her portrayal. "When I think of Attica, I think of the voice of Cookie," Daniels says. He admits that Locke saved him more than once, fighting for a nuanced portrayal that, according to her, was more mother and less gangster.

Locke describes her three seasons as a writer and producer on "*Empire*" as "the most fun thing I've ever done," but novel writing never left her, and the experience

analyzing digital surveillance data on the Texas chapter of the Aryan Brotherhood. The desk job doesn't really suit Darren, who longs to be back in the field. His chance for action comes when 9-year-old Levi King disappears in Marion County. Levi is a handful, unruly and given to vandalism, especially when it involves the property of his black neighbors. Levi also is the son of Bill "Big Kill" King, a captain in the Aryan Brotherhood who is serving a 20-year prison sentence on drug charges. Despite his propensity for violence and his extreme racial bigotry, King also is a father who desperately wants his son found. Darren's boss believes he can use King's role in the brotherhood as leverage against the brotherhood in exchange for finding his son.

Politics loom over the plot set in the post-2016 election. But "*Heaven, My Home*" is not about what will happen in the government but how an insular community deals with hatred and bigotry on a daily basis. Darren's badge and authority mean little to those who only see the color of his skin.

In "*Heaven, My Home*," Locke excels in her superior storytelling.

— OLINE H. COGDLIN/AP



Attica Locke

the urban promise of St. Louis or Chicago. But Locke's family didn't leave and neither did the family of her protagonist, Texas Ranger Darren Mathews. Locke first introduced the character in "*Bluebird, Bluebird*" in 2017 as a lawman who has a conflicted relationship with the law, because, as a black man, the law is conflicted about him. Of the state's elite unit of 150 or so rangers, a mere handful are minorities.

Matthews' case in "*Heaven, My Home*" again centers on white supremacy; he's called in to track down a missing 9-year-old, the son of a convicted Aryan Brotherhood member.

Locke's setting, after the election of 2016, can feel both like a bygone time and a reflection of the current moment when racial violence feels "like a ghostly relative in a daguerreotype that has always been there but was now impossible to ignore," she writes in the book. This is a place where the n-word is used freely, and Matthews' badge is no shield against racism. "He felt as if he'd wandered into a movie set," Locke writes in "*Heaven*." "He could see the actors, but Darren was reflected in none of the action around him."

She captures the acute challenge of being a black man in America, regardless of education, title or pedigree. But her first job, she says, "is as a storyteller." Entertainment value is paramount, and she manages to deliver it while also immersing readers in a world where the wound of America's racial history is raw, infected and resistant to treatment.

It's a skill she continues to bring to television as well.

Ava DuVernay sought her out to write for the Emmy-nominated Netflix drama about the Central Park Five, "*When They See Us*." And the adaptation of Ng's "*Little Fires Everywhere*" hits Hulu in 2020.

Locke is clearly having a moment, though fans of her novels need not worry about her rising profile in television.

"*Heaven, My Home*" ends on another cliffhanger, so we'll undoubtedly be hearing from Ranger Mathews again soon.

of television's episodic storytelling gave her the confidence to start a book series set along Texas' Highway 59. Locke spent her childhood traveling the rural byways of that stretch, visiting relatives in Lufkin, Corrigan and Marshall, looking out the window on vistas of swamps and creeks, one rural folks selling boiled peanuts and peach jam.

Locke's early books focused on big-city politics in her hometown of Houston, clearly inspired by her own father's run for mayor there. But Highway 59 "feels like a vein in my body," Locke says. "It's where my entire family comes from."

For many black Americans, that route represented a way out of Texas, especially during the Great Migration, a road to

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

“Spider-Man: Far from Home”: After an agonizing opening that focuses on the return of Peter Parker (Tom Holland) post-The Blip, the film’s weak plot kicks in with a high school science trip to Europe. Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers — the team behind the script for “Spider-Man: Homecoming” — can think of no better way to shift the story to Europe except for a plot idea that even one of the characters points out as nonsensical.

“Spider-Man: Far from Home” lacks the maturity, deep emotions, staggering battle scenes and clever writing that has been shown in movies like “Avengers: Endgame” and “Captain Marvel.” But there is a place for movies like “Spider-Man: Far from Home,” especially with the very young and preteen moviegoers.

The film has just enough silliness — mostly generated by the comical teachers on the trip played by Martin Starr and JB Smoove — to entertain the demographic, especially when mixed with the flashy visual style by director Jo Watto.



MJ (Zendaya) hangs with Spider-Man (Tom Holland) in “Spider-Man: Far From Home.”

“Driven”: Director Nick Hamm uses the DeLoorean to go back to the past for a look at a world of greed, creative genius, con men, obsession and wealth. The DeLoorean is his vehicle of choice, but it is Lee Pace’s performance as master car designer John DeLoorean that puts the production in high gear.

Hamm’s version of the story suffers from a need to squeeze the events into a more compact package and offers a revisionist view of the main players, tending to make them look more like victims than royal manipulators. “Driven” is based in fact, but if you want to adhere completely to the truth, there are multiple documentaries on the subject.

What you get with “Driven” is a version of the DeLoorean story that leans more toward the lavish and larcorous. But Pace’s first-rate work keeps pulling the focus back to the man at the heart of the tale.

Also available on DVD:

“The Truth Will Out”: Swedish drama about a police detective who is commissioned to form a new team to reopen unsolved murder cases.

“Sesame Street: 50 Years and Counting”: The two-disc DVD set features more than five-and-a-half hours of content from all five decades of the show.

“The Toys that Made Us”: TV series that examines the history of popular toys such as Barbie and Transformers.

“Peanuts 70th Anniversary Holiday Collection Limited Edition”: Includes “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown,” “A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving,” “A Charlie Brown Christmas” and six other Peanuts specials.

“Mean Girls”: Film is being released on Blu-ray to mark the 15th anniversary.

“Wonders of the Sea”: Jean-Michel Cousteau goes on a journey around the world to learn more about the threats that put our oceans at risk.

“Zombieland”: Dark comedy starring Woody Harrelson is being rereleased for the 10th anniversary.

“Gremlins”: The 1984 film will be released on Ultra HD Blu-ray to mark the 35th anniversary.

— Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service

Turning on the charm

Tiffany Haddish host of ‘Kids Say the Darndest Things’ revival

BY LUANNE LEE
Tribune News Service

It was an idea that started way back in the dark ages of radio, but a good idea never falters. That’s proven once again as ABC revives the comedy series “Kids Say the Darndest Things,” premiering Sunday in the U.S. and Monday on AFN-Pulse.

The format was simple: Encourage youngsters (around 4 to 8) to talk about all kinds of subjects from bowling to bad manners. The outcome usually was hilarious with no one prompting them from the sidelines and with a host who could zig when they zagged (they often did.)

Art Linkletter introduced the idea on his “House Party” radio show, which ran from 1945 to 67. When he transplanted it to television in 1952, the segment became a whopping success, enduring for 17 years. Bill Cosby hosted a similar enterprise from 1998 to 2000, and in ABC’s reincarnation, comedian Tiffany Haddish takes the reins.

Haddish, 39, claims she’s still a kid at heart and always knew she was destined for the unusual.

“At that time in my life, I knew that I wanted to do something really cool,” she says. “And when people asked me, ‘Tiffany, what do you want to be when you grow up?’ I’d be, like, ‘I want to be a horse farmer’ or ‘I want to work in a Snickers factory’ or ‘I want to work in a beef jerky factory.’ And everybody would be, like, ‘Why would you want to do those things?’ and I’m, like, ‘Because my grandma said, ‘Do what you love.’ And I love horses. I love Snickers. I love beef jerky.’ So there you have it.”

The children on the ABC show don’t appear through high-priced Hollywood agents either, says executive producer Eric Schotz. “We’re not looking to get professional kids to come on the show. We’re looking for regular kids, and there are millions of them out there that are not necessarily in Los Angeles,” he says.

“We’ve seen thousands and thousands of kids,” adds producer Jack Martin. “They’re there for the casting call, and then they come back, and we put them in a situation kind of like this — as far



ABC/TNS photo

Tiffany Haddish, left, is pictured with Blake on ABC’s “Kids Say the Darndest Things.” Haddish says she’s a good fit for the job because of her experiences with foster care when she was a child. The comedic superstar also is an executive producer of the classic show, which dates back to 1945.

make it, like, ‘This is making me stronger.’ And I was always taught that, too, as a kid — what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger. This is happening for a reason. Everything happens for a reason. Even though you don’t know what it is now, you’ll know later.”

She thinks the experience gave her a special affinity for children.

“I feel like everything that I went through as a child and being in the foster care system, and knowing what it’s like to NOT be heard, and now that I am an adult, I really feel that it’s very important to hear children to listen to them, to give them a place to talk,” she says.

“I remember being a kid and people saying, ‘Oh, kids should be seen and not heard.’ I do not agree with that at all. I think kids should be seen and they should be heard. If you’re able to talk, you should be heard, period, no matter what you are.”



WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

KEEP SMILING

Dental tourism comes at a bargain price, and includes a vacation

By MIKE SALMON
Kaiser Health News

Do you want numbing gel?" the dental technician asked me as she prepared to plunge into my mouth.

In the entire history of dentistry, from caveman days to now, who has ever said no to more painkiller? Smear that gel around like spackle! She did. And then ground and scraped. And scraped and ground, for a full hour and a half.

Ninety minutes later, I was writhing in a different kind of pain. The office assistant handed me a bill for \$930. That was \$900 for root planing and \$30 for the numbing gel. I had to bite my gel-numbed tongue to avoid asking why they stopped there. "Sir, would you prefer we do this while you lie on the floor or would you prefer the Chair Package?" "Care for our Adequate Living Option?"

Worse: This was just the beginning. The dentist said I needed at least four crowns — at about \$1,500 each. While that's about the average cost of crowns around our home in Maryland, according to our insurer, that would probably be about \$5,000 more than our insurance would cover.

I was moaning about this to my brother-in-law who lives in Norway, and he said people there fly to Hungary for good, affordable dentistry. A little Googling about dental tourism had me sold. The savings from crossing the border can appear remarkable. Crowns that cost \$1,500 would run just \$300 to \$600 apiece in Mexico or Costa Rica, I found. No wonder medical and dental tourism is a booming business. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis says Americans spent \$2.6 billion on medical and dental tourism in 2018. That's up from just \$757 million in 2008. While there are no reliable counts of how many people leave the U.S. for discount foreign dentistry, officials in Costa Rica, a hub for dental tourism, estimate that tourists spent more than \$200 million implants, crowns, veneers and other tooth care there in 2017.

Of course, a cheap but bad dentist is no bargain. Traveling to a foreign country for discount dentistry certainly has additional hassles and risks. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns that local standards of facilities and training may be lower than in the U.S. and that mistakes in translation or communication



The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis says Americans spent \$2.6 billion on medical and dental tourism in 2018. That's up from just \$757 million in 2008.

can result in mistreatment. Also of concern for anyone having major work done: Flying shortly after any kind of surgery heightens the risk of deadly blood clots.

But putting off needed dental care also has risks. So, I was determined to try it.

First, to find that good and affordable overseas dentist, I opted for Costa Rica because I'd never been there, it had a good reputation for dental tourism, and I'd heard it was a great place to vacation. Why not offset the pain with a little pleasure? Googling for Costa Rican dentists returns almost 1.8 million results. To narrow my choices, I used a facilitator, or broker. I figured that was safer, since the dentists are beholden to him for repeat business.

While it's difficult to suss out legitimate online reviews of anything anymore, I chose a broker who seemed to get real-sounding praise on sites like TripAdvisor. I sent him my X-rays and my American dentist's treatment proposal. He distributed those to several Costa Rican dentists, who sent back bids. I chose one who passed my wife's online investigation. The facilitator also handled travel, arranging for a hotel (\$75 a night),

airport pickup and transportation to the dentist's office. He didn't charge me for this service. He collects commissions from the dentist and hotel.

I arrived in San Jose, Costa Rica, on a Tuesday, and the next day a driver whisked me to the clinic, where I was reassured. I saw state-of-the-art equipment and learned that several of the dentists had trained at American dental schools. My dentist had done some training at Baylor College of Dentistry in Texas, now Texas A&M College of Dentistry. The staff was fluent in English.

After his examination (\$80), the Costa Rican dentist announced he thought I needed five crowns. (I really should have flossed more.) The cost: \$500 each. I said yes.

At home, a wise person would probably scream out this kind of ordeal. But the Costa Rican dentist was eager to get everything done right away, and my time was limited. So, for the next 6½ hours they ground and they pierced and they grated and they chipped. That's a lot of Novocaine. And the conversation among staffers was in rapid Spanish, which Americans who don't speak the language might find disconcerting.

It would take a few days to make the crowns, so my wife and I took a short flight to the Drake Bay area, where we snorkeled, swam and poked around the mangroves. My mouth was sore for about a day, but ibuprofen and a few refreshing "leche de pantera" nonalcoholic cocktails took care of that.

When I returned to San Jose for the final fitting, an interesting thing happened. One crown did not sit perfectly. The dentist explained that he could grind it down, but the best practice was to cast a

new one. That, however, would take time, and he knew my schedule was tight. I appreciated his honesty, and it was nice to be given a choice. I opted to wait for the new crown, which he glued on the night before my flight home. It fit perfectly.

Total dental bill: \$2,580, including anesthetics. Because our dental plan is a Preferred Provider Organization, Aetna says we can be reimbursed for some of this expense, but it is still working on that.

My wife's and my airfare and a week in a San Jose hotel ran about \$1,000. Throw in \$500 for meals and incidentals, and the total cost of the dental trip/vacation came in under \$4,100. People who live close to Mexico and can drive across the border to dental centers such as Los Algodones would have much lower costs.

That math shows that dental tourism for people who live far from the Mexican border makes economic sense only if you require significant expensive dentistry, like crowns, implants or veneers, costing more than about \$5,000 in the U.S. But in return for the savings — and the cheap tropical vacation — you have to be comfortable traveling in a foreign country and willing to accept a little extra risk.

Generally, your local dentist will repair a loose crown he or she installed at no charge in the first year or two. If something goes wrong with my Costa Rican crowns, I'll probably have to pay a local dentist about what it cost to do a crown to take care of that. But after more than six months, I've had no complaints.

I can only say that most guests at my San Jose hotel were there for the dentistry. Most were return customers. They had beautiful smiles.

And nice tans.

iStock

WEEKEND: FAMILY

UNDER PRESSURE

Students in high-achieving schools are now considered an 'at-risk' group

Stock

By JENNIFER BREHENY WALLACE
Special to The Washington Post

Communities touting the best-ranked schools are often the most in-demand among families. But this competitive environment can come at a psychological cost to those attending them. Emerging research is finding that students in "high-achieving schools" — public and private schools with high standardized test scores, varied extracurricular and academic offerings, and graduates who head off to top colleges — are experiencing higher rates of behavioral and mental health problems compared with national norms.

A consensus study report on advancing health equity among American children published this summer by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine added youths in "high-achieving schools" to their list of "at-risk" groups, along with kids living in poverty and foster care, recent immigrants and those with incarcerated parents.

Last year, a report by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation came to a similar conclusion when it named the top environmental conditions harming adolescent well-being — among them were poverty, trauma, discrimination and "excessive pressure to excel," often, but not exclusively, occurring in affluent communities. It may sound counterintuitive, even perverse, to put relatively affluent kids in the same category as our country's most vulnerable youths. While the stressors are markedly different, researchers are finding that both are "at risk" for elevated levels of chronic stress that can affect health and well-being.

"When parents ask me where all of this pressure is coming from, I ask them: 'Where is it not?'" says Suniya Luthar, a professor of psychology at Arizona State University, whose research in the 1990s first uncovered the unique vulnerabilities of privileged but pressured

youths. The unrelenting pressure on students in high-achieving schools comes from every direction, from overly invested parents who want perfect grades, coaches who want wins for their own personal reputations and school administrators who feel pressured to get high standardized scores in their school, which then prop up real estate values in the area.

Facing record-low acceptance rates at top colleges, many students feel tremendous pressure to achieve and résumé-build in all aspects of their young lives. In the pressurized ecosystem of high-achieving

Even activities that once were stress-reducers, like playing a musical instrument or a sport, have become a means to an end — a spot at one of the country's most competitive colleges — and then on to a prestigious, high-paying career.

ing schools, driven students must out-compete each other for a few coveted spots, whether it's a seat in AP calculus or a spot on the debate team. Even activities that once were stress-reducers, like playing a musical instrument or a sport, have become a means to an end — a spot at one of the country's most competitive colleges — and then on to a prestigious, high-paying career.

Luthar's studies have found that adolescents in high-achieving schools can suffer significantly higher rates of anxiety, depression, substance abuse and delinquent behaviors, at least two to three times the national average. Some warning signs, like excessive peer envy and cheating, tend to emerge in middle school, but other symptoms of stress are being seen as early as elementary school. When a child's sense of self-worth is dependent on what they achieve, it can lead to anxiety and depression. Anxiety can come from worrying about keeping up with

with or outshining peers, while depression can be caused by a failure to achieve.

"Of course, not every student in these communities is affected and not every school exhibits the same symptoms, but as a group, high-achieving students appear to be at a much greater risk," she says.

In a recent national survey of 43,000 students from high-performing schools by Challenge Success, a research-based organization affiliated with Stanford University, three-quarters of high school students and half of middle school students reported "often or always feeling

stressed" by their school-work. More than two-thirds of high-schoolers reported being "often or always worried" about getting into the college of their choice. Many students have been fed the myth that there is only one, narrow path to success — acceptance to a prestigious college — and they have internalized that message, says researcher Denise Pope, co-founder of Challenge Success.

So what enables some students to avoid the negative effects of such high-stakes

pressure? A 2017 study published in the Journal of Youth and Adolescence offers some insight.

Researchers surveyed more than 500 middle school students from a high-achieving school and asked them to rank values their parents prioritized. Three values focused on achievement (to attend a good college, excel academically, have a successful career) and three on character traits (to be respectful, helpful and kind to others). Researchers also collected data on perceived parental criticism, mental health symptoms, rule-breaking behaviors and grade-point average. Adolescents who believed that both of their parents valued character traits as much as or more than achievement exhibited better outcomes at school, greater mental health and less rule-breaking behavior than peers who believed their parents were primarily achievement-minded, the researchers found.

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Desperately seeking reunion redemption

“C’mon, please go with me,” I begged Patti, “we’ll have fun, I promise.”

But my best friend since 9th grade was skeptical. She thought our 35th high school reunion could be a bust. But she agreed to go, as long as we — our husbands, Patti and I — would make a speedy exit when the time was right.

In the weeks after sending in my reply, my adolescent insecurities bubbled to the surface. I went on a crash diet. I combed the racks at TJ Maxx in search of just the right outfit. I got my nails and my hair done. I rehearsed my response to, “So what have you been doing for the last 35 years?”

But my decades-old fear of rejection was too entrenched to be completely quashed. No matter how satisfied I was with the path I took after high school, adolescence had imprinted certain insecurities on my psyche like a permanent tattoo.

After posting on our Class of 1984 Reunion Facebook page, I found myself monitoring the number of likes. “It says that my post was seen by 80 people, but I only got 15 likes,” I pathetically complained to Patti. I couldn’t fathom how my own kids coped with this kind of social media pressure on a daily basis. No wonder anxiety and depression are rampant today, I thought.

On my flight to Pittsburgh to meet Patti for our reunion odyssey, I wondered, why did I want to revisit the period of my life when my insecurities were spawned? I had missed all but our 20th reunion, because we moved so much as a military family. Patti didn’t care much about missing reunions, but I deeply regretted not being able to go, and had jumped on the chance this time. But why?

In high school, I precariously dangled from a social ladder belonging to the group of students who were not quite cool enough to be popular. We occupied the penumbra space that shadowed the popular crowd, hoping to be included in their parties and social gatherings.

At our 20th reunion, Patti asked one of our most popular classmates where she and I fit into the social scheme. He thought a minute, then arrogantly graced her with, “You and Lisa were on the bubble.”

Although I used humor in high school to overcompensate for my perceived inadequacies, deep inside I was desperate to drop 10 pounds, desperate to be cool, desperate for a boyfriend. I sought these things with intense longing, lying on my yellow twin bed, looking up at my Kliban Cat posters, yearning for more. Desperation was the hallmark of my teenage persona, so I would have been thrilled to find out that a popular guy thought I was “on the bubble.”

The reunion weekend started with a bonfire on Friday night, followed on Saturday by a buffet dinner at the local Ramada Inn. Patti, our husbands and I arrived at the bonfire to find only a few members of the old popular and penumbra crowds. “Oh, I guess they’re too cool for us,” we joked with a hint of seriousness.

Fearful that Patti would signal “We’re outta here” at any moment, I worked the modest crowd quickly, chattering with everyone whose names hadn’t completely escaped me. The next night at the Ramada, we mingled somewhat awkwardly in an indoor courtyard space that was noisy thanks to the guest pool being only a few feet away from our buffet tables. Sweating, inhaling chlorine-laced steam and gnawing on chicken kebabs, I once again made an honest effort to converse with as many of my classmates as possible.

Flying home the next day, I finally realized why communing with my high school classmates had been important to me. As a teenager, I was so caught up in my own drama, I hadn’t noticed the triumphs and tribulations of most of the other people in my class. The reunion had been a way for me to get over myself.

To show respect for the people with whom I spent my high school years, to feel the cathartic camaraderie of having shared adolescence, and to finally, once and for all, leave desperation behind.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: theheatandpotatoesofflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesofflife@googlemail.com

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

ON THE UP AND UP
BY TRACY GRAY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Tracy Gray lives in Sparks, Md., near Baltimore, where she and her husband own and operate a lawn-and-landscape business. She made her Times debut in 2010. Tracy always includes fresh, colorful vocabulary in her puzzles. Her last Sunday, two years ago, is the only Times crossword ever to contain OVEN TIMER, RIVER THAMES, MALL OF AMERICA, MADAME TUSSAUDS, QUODORA or LEFT AFAR. This is her 27th puzzle for The Times. —W.S.

CROSS
1 Large decorative letter at the start of a chapter
8 Wood for crafts and rafts

13 Rapper Azalea with the 2014 hit "Fancy"

17 Farm stat

18 Weep for

19 Competitors in a classic advertising "war"

21 Salon bed acquisition, perhaps

22 Give a nudge

23 Discarded computers and such

25 Maintain the impression of well-being

28 [Grrr!]

29 General on Chinese menus

32 Put in order, in a way

33 Online instigator

35 "____ minute" ("Be patient")

36 Ancient region of Asia Minor

38 Lopes of R&B's TLC

39 Reconciled, as a couple

41 Ab-targeting exercise equipment

43 To the point

45 Chex (old breakfast cereal)

46 With 12-Down, "Isle of Dogs" director
47 Work at a music school
49 When doubled, band with the 1984 No. 1 hit "The Reflex"

51 MGM rival of the '30s
53 Money handler on a ship

55 Amber, originally

56 Miniature spring bouquet

60 Pummel with snowballs, say snowballs, say

61 Roulette choice

63 "I believe," in Latin

65 Something that comes with a sock

66 Screen-minimizing key

67 Method for identifying mystery callers

70 M.L.B. stat

71 Downed

72 O'Connor's Supreme Court successor

73 Futuristic deliverer of packages

74 Doctor Doom and Galactus, to the Fantastic Four

75 Athlete's knee injury, familiarly

77 Bitter fruits

79 —

82 Material for classic hockey sticks

83 Bouquet offerers, maybe

84 Deep distress

85 Article in Paris Match

87 Animal mimic?

89 Response to "Who's there?"

91 Some cheesecake photos
95 Accelerated alternative to broadband
98 "Poppycock!"
100 Rainwater diverters

101 Diez menos nueve

102 "Au contraire!"

103 Hairstyling icon Vidal

105 What it is to kill a mockingbird, in "To Kill a Mockingbird"

106 "I feel the same way!"

108 Voltage-increasing electrical device

111 Animal mimic?

113 Ask too much

114 Brand in the dessert aisle

118 Character in "Grease" who sings "There Are Worse Things I Could Do!"

119 Likes many measuring cups and spoons

120 Doctor Doom and Galactus, to the Fantastic Four

121 Homer, for one

122 "Yeech!"

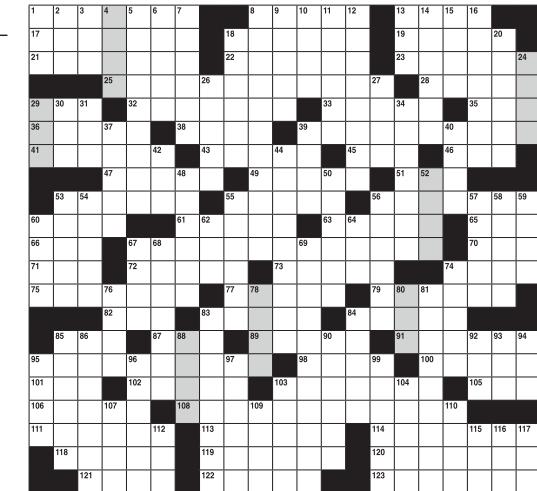
123 Puts to rest, as rumors

DOWN
1 2010s dance move involving dipping the head to the elbow

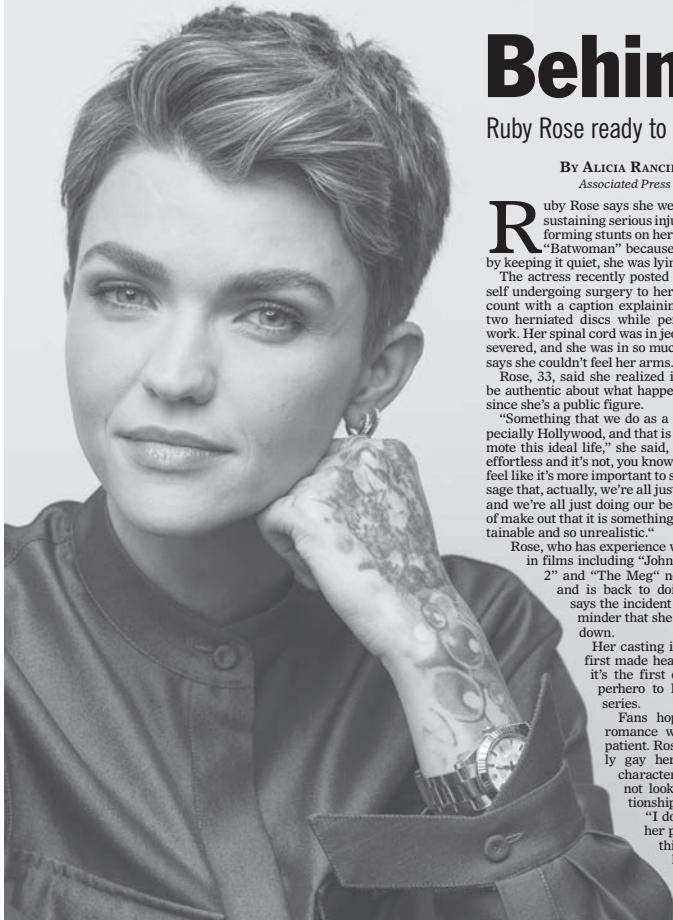
2 Inits. on 30 Rockefeller Plaza until 1988

3 Surgery sites, for short

4 Christmas Eve no-no



FACES



Jumping the shark? Kiss to play for them

Associated Press

This Kiss concert is happening Down Under, all right.

The rock group will play a show Nov. 18 in Australia for sharks and eight fans, who will listen through underwater speakers in a small submarine as the band remains above board on a boat — in full make-up and costumes as part of an Airbnb promotion.

The event is part of Airbnb Animal Experiences, and is designed to have people entertain animals instead of the other way around.

Kiss singer Paul Stanley said the band will play at least four songs, adding he's not sure how much more of Kiss the sharks can take. He says sharks are attracted to low frequency vibrations, making rock 'n' roll an ideal choice to interest them.

The event will be held in the Indian Ocean off Port Lincoln in South Australia.



Gene Simmons, left, and Tommy Thayer of Kiss perform at the Riverbend Music Center in Cincinnati on Aug. 29.

Behind the cowl

Ruby Rose ready to defend Gotham in The CW's 'Batwoman'

BY ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

Ruby Rose says she went public about sustaining serious injuries while performing stunts for her new CW series "Batwoman" because she hated that by keeping it quiet, she was lying.

The actress recently posted a video of herself undergoing surgery to her Instagram account with a caption explaining she suffered two herniated discs while performing stunt work. Her spinal cord was in jeopardy of being severed, and she was in so much pain that she couldn't feel her arms.

Rose, 33, said she realized it was better to be authentic about what happened, especially since she's a public figure.

"Something that we do as a society and especially Hollywood, and that is we kind of promote this ideal life," she said. "Everything is effortless and it's not, you know what I mean? I feel like it's more important to spread the message that, actually, we're all just human beings and we're all just doing our best and not kind of make out that it is something that is so unattainable and so unrealistic."

Rose, who has experience with stunt work in films including "John Wick: Chapter 2" and "The Meg" now feels better and is back to doing stunts, but says the incident was a good reminder that she needed to slow down.

Her casting in "Batwoman" first made headlines because it's the first openly gay superhero to headline a TV series.

Fans hoping for some romance will have to be patient. Rose, who is openly gay herself, says her character, Kate Kane, is not looking for a relationship right now.

"I don't think that's her priority right at this minute. She has just come



The CW

Ruby Rose as Kate Kane/Batwoman in "Batwoman," which premieres Oct. 12 on **AFN-Spectrum**.

into herself. She's just returned to Gotham. She has so much trauma going on. She's lost her mom, she's lost her sister, she's trying to discover what she wants to do in her life," Rose said.

"She was kicked out of the military so it's like she's starting from square one, and then when she discovers a purpose and that purpose is to become Batwoman."

As for the Batwoman costume — four-time Academy Award-winning costume designer Colleen Atwood designed the cowl and cape — Rose says the fittings were an extensive process.

"It got to the point where I was like, we're doing a body scan and we're doing a 3D scan, we're doing laser, stand in a room and there's 150 million characters that are going to catch every single angle of you doing every face and I was just like, 'Goodness gracious, this is wild,' and then when you get the suit, you really realize why," she said.

"It fits me like a glove in every single area, in every movement. It feels like a second skin so when you put it on you really kind of feel like you are unstoppable and bulletproof and faster and stronger and all these things that you're actually not."

DREW GURIAN, INVISION/AP

3 charged with providing drugs that killed Mac Miller

Three men arrested during the investigation into rapper Mac Miller's deadly overdose last year have now been charged with providing the drugs that killed him, U.S. prosecutors said Wednesday.

A grand jury indictment that was unsealed in Los Angeles accuses the men of conspiring and distributing cocaine and oxycodone pills laced with fentanyl that caused Miller's death in September 2018.

Cameron Pettit, 28, of West Hollywood, Calif.; Stephen Walter, 46, of Los Angeles; and Ryan Reavis, 36, of Lake Havasu City, Ariz., were previously charged with drug-related offenses. Wednesday's charges add the allegation that their drugs led to Miller's death.

Miller, 26, died of an accidental overdose of the powerful opioid fentanyl, along with cocaine and alcohol. Fentanyl has contributed to an epidemic of opioid abuse in the U.S. that has claimed thousands of lives, including those of other musicians, such as Prince.

The men face a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in federal prison and

the potential for life without parole if convicted of either of the charges related to Miller's death.

Dr. Dre, Iovine unveil high-tech building at USC

A high-tech building named after Andre "Dr. Dre" Young and Jimmy Iovine was dedicated Wednesday on the University of Southern California campus.

Dr. Dre and Iovine attended the ceremony for the Iovine and Young Hall. The building was named after the duo who donated a combined \$70 million in 2013 to create an art, technology and business academy at the college.

Dr. Dre is best known as a producer, rapper and co-owner of Death Row Records. He later started his own record label, Aftermath Entertainment.

Iovine is a music industry entrepreneur who is known as the co-founder of Interscope Records.

From The Associated Press


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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly (days except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Friday and for 75 cents Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc., a unit of APG, Inc. APG sends materials postage paid at San Francisco, CA, Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APG 94179.

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OPINION**Founders defined treason to protect free speech**

By CASS R. SUNSTEIN

Bloomberg Opinion

President Donald Trump is not reluctant to accuse people of treason.

On Sunday, Trump targeted Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, proclaiming on Twitter that he wanted the California Democrat "questioned at the highest level for Fraud & Treason." On Monday, he elaborated, musing that a "fake and terrible statement" by Schiff might just be grounds for his "Arrest for Treason."

Trump's tweets are often over-the-top. But these were particularly heinous because they are inconsistent with the U.S. Constitution, and call up the very concerns that motivated that drafting.

Treason is the only crime specifically defined in the U.S. Constitution:

"Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort."

That's from Article III, Section 3, which continues:

"No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confinement in open Court."

The narrow definition of treason is a central feature of American exceptionalism and a sibling to the First Amendment's protection of freedom of speech. The founding generation was deeply committed to the idea of republican self-government, which could not exist if political leaders could define treason as they wished. They wanted to protect dissent and opposition.

As James Madison explained, "Newfangled and artificial treasons have been

the great engines by which violent factions, the natural offspring of free government, have usually wreaked their alternate malignity on each other." For that reason, Madison continued, "the convention have, with great judgment, opposed a barrier to this peculiar danger, by inserting a constitutional definition of the crime."

It's evident that there are two forms of treason, separated in the Constitution by that important little word, "or."

Levying war against the U.S. covers internal insurrections against the government. Before the Civil War, almost all federal cases fell under that category.

Levying war is a well-specified idea. Ordinarily, it consists of actually assembling armed forces. As Chief Justice John Marshall put it in 1807:

"However flagitious may be the crime of conspiring to subvert by force the government of our country, such conspiracy is not treason. To conspire to levy war, and actually to levy war, are distinct offences. The first must be brought into open action by the assemblage of men for a purpose treasonable in itself, or the fact of levying war cannot have been committed. So far has this principle been carried, that ... it has been determined that the actual enlistment of men to serve against the government does not amount to levying war."

It should be clear that political acts of the most unsavory or despicable sort — lying, leaking, spying — cannot by themselves be counted as "levying war."

The second idea, of "adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort," is somewhat broader. As the Supreme Court made clear in 1877, the key term is "enemies," a term that is limited to "the subjects of a foreign power in a state of open

hostility with us." Open hostility refers to declared or open war.

During World War II, Nazi Germany would of course count as an enemy, and after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the enactment by Congress seven days later of an Authorization for the Use of Military Force, al-Qaida would be so counted as well (so long as a private organization can be seen as "a foreign power").

"Aid and comfort" are also words of limitation, consistent with the founding generation's insistence on allowing a lot of scope for freedom. Communicating intelligence would certainly count. So would selling munitions to an enemy, or delivering prisoners and deserters to them. Transferring goods to an enemy might also count as treason, even if those goods are not munitions.

Under federal law, treason is punishable by death. The founding generation sought to ensure that this most heinous of offenses would be narrowly limited, and would never be a basis for high-level attacks on, or threats to, political opponents.

It's important to say that Trump isn't alone in reckless and irresponsible use of the term. That is something that some of his critics, including the former director of the CIA, John Brennan, and former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld, have also done.

No one should doubt that it's perfectly legitimate for Trump to object in the most vociferous terms to the statements and actions of Schiff, or to those of any member of the House of Representatives. But for a president or any high-level politician to use accusations of treason as a political weapon is not merely an error of law. It is a betrayal of the U.S. Constitution.

Cass R. Sunstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist.

Apply 'Mnuchin Rule' to all Bidens – and Trumps

By DOYLE McMANUS

Los Angeles Times

The tangled tale of Hunter Biden is worthy of a Russian, or maybe Ukrainian, novel: A ne'er-do-well son goes abroad to seek his fortune, but succeeds only in endangering his father's presidential campaign.

In 2014, Biden, a once-very-successful lawyer who had been in and out of alcohol rehabilitation and debt, landed a lucrative job working for a Ukrainian energy mogul. Big mistake. His father, Joe, was vice president of the United States. No matter what work Hunter Biden did or didn't perform, the aroma of influence-peddling was unavoidable. Second mistake: His father didn't try to talk him out of it.

Hunter Biden's contract, which paid him \$50,000 a month for a period until he decided not to renew it in May, has given President Donald Trump and his personal investigator, Rudy Giuliani, an enticing target — perhaps even a way to knock a leading Democratic candidate out of the 2020 presidential race.

Trump himself asked the president of Ukraine in a telephone call to investigate the two Bidens. The call was the final straw that landed Trump in impeachment proceedings. That was Trump's mistake.

Meanwhile, Joe Biden is trapped by loyalty to his son and the needs of his presidential campaign. He's not saying anything about the charges except that they're not true. He wants to keep the focus on Trump, not his son, who's in Los Angeles trying to rebuild his troubled life.

Hunter Biden doesn't think he did anything wrong, although he's unhappy about the pain he has caused his father.

"I'm saying 'Sorry' to him, and we have an

ongoing debate about who should be more sorry," Hunter said. "And we both realize that the only true antidote to any of this is winning (the election). He says, 'Look, it's going to go away.'"

And it might. As more evidence about Hunter Biden's time in Ukraine has trickled out, it has turned up no evidence that either Biden broke the law.

Trump, Giuliani and their surrogates allege that, as vice president, Joe Biden pushed Ukraine to fire a prosecutor because he was investigating Hunter Biden's patron. But the evidence available so far shows Trump has the story backward. The U.S. and its European allies wanted the prosecutor replaced because he wasn't pursuing corruption vigorously enough.

Trump's allegations against Biden don't stand up. But the Democrats' impeachment inquiry against Trump, for pressuring Ukraine's president to investigate Biden during a July 25 phone call, is based in large part on the declassified account of the conversation released by the White House. Lawmakers still want to know whether that demand was linked to Trump's decision to withhold \$250 million to help Ukraine fight a Russia-backed insurgency.

Some Republicans argue that Hunter Biden's job might be legal but still doesn't look right — because he appeared to be trading on his connection to his father. They have a point. Hunter Biden is only the latest in a long line of relatives of elected leaders who appear to have used their names to open doors. Which brings us to three other children: Donald Trump Jr., Ivanka Trump and Eric Trump.

Donald Jr. and Eric run The Trump Organization, which their father still owns. They have promised to seek no new foreign deals while he is president, but they are still building real estate projects that were

announced before his inauguration, and they say they will resume making deals after he leaves office.

Ivanka Trump, officially an adviser to the president, operated her fashion company for a year and a half after entering the White House. She closed it in 2018, saying it had become a distraction. Meanwhile, she collected dozens of trademark grants in China under applications she filed before her father's inauguration. In 2017, she received three trademarks on the same day as her father died with Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago.

Anything illegal there? No. But would she have been able to chat up the leader of the world's second-largest economy if her father wasn't president? No. Just as with Hunter Biden, foreign governments and others see opportunities to curry favor by doing favors for a high official's family.

On Sunday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin explained what he thought was wrong about the Biden case. "What I do find inappropriate is the fact that Vice President Biden's son did very significant business dealings in Ukraine," he said.

Wouldn't that restriction cover Trump's children? Mnuchin fumbled. "I don't want to get into more of the details," he said, then insisted that the Trump deals "pre-dated his presidency."

Nonsense. If Trump's kids get a pass as while their dad sits in the Oval Office, Hunter Biden does too. But give Mnuchin credit for proposing, if only inadvertently, a sensible "Mnuchin Rule": Relatives of the president and vice president should not engage in "significant business dealings" abroad. Sorry, kids. That means you, Ivanka, Eric and Donald Jr.

Doyle McManus is a Washington columnist for the Los Angeles Times and director of the journalism program at Georgetown University.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

History will validate Khashoggi criticism of crown prince

The Washington Post

Jamal Khashoggi never intended to be a dissident. For many years, he wrote for and edited newspapers in Saudi Arabia, and he served as an aide in Saudi embassies in Washington and London. What prompted him to leave the kingdom and to begin writing columns for The Washington Post, was the sharp increase in domestic repression under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The fear, intimidation, arrests and public shaming of intellectuals and religious leaders who dare to speak their minds, as Khashoggi put it in his first Post op-ed, in September 2017.

For the next year, the then-58-year-old journalist jostled with the then-32-year-old Saudi ruler in the pages of The Post and on the internet, where Khashoggi was assailed by the troll army controlled by Mohammed bin Salman's top aide. Khashoggi challenged the crown prince not just on his persecution of critics, which he described as bound to undermine the new regime's ambitions to modernize and revitalize the country. His columns also argued against Mohammed bin Salman's reckless regional agenda — especially the war in Yemen, which the crown prince had launched while serving as defense minister. Khashoggi denounced the attempt to suppress democracy and free expression throughout the Middle East and to exclude Islamist parties from politics.

Khashoggi's ability to wage this debate ended on Oct. 2, 2018. On that day, our columnist walked into the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, where he was quickly suffocated and his body dismembered by a team of 15 dispatched from Riyadh for that purpose. According to the CIA, Mohammed bin Salman almost certainly ordered the murder; a U.N. investigation also held him responsible. In one sense, he succeeded: Khashoggi's trenchant columns no longer appear in The Post, while the crown prince and his closest aide, Saudi al-Qahtani, who oversaw the operation, have escaped justice. President Donald Trump, who embraced the young dictator as a close ally, quickly excused the crime, and Trump and his allies have blocked attempts in Congress to hold the regime accountable. During two interviews broadcast this week, Mohammed bin Salman disingenuously said he accepted full "responsibility" for the killing while denying any personal involvement in it — a lie that only those wishing to excuse him will accept.

And yet, the story of Khashoggi and Mohammed bin Salman is not over. The warnings the journalist sounded have proved prescient. A year later, the Saudi regime continues to suffer the consequences of its persecution of opponents — especially women seeking greater rights — and its ill-conceived intervention in Yemen. Khashoggi warned that the persecution of activists would backfire, and it has; the regime is universally vilified by human rights groups, and Mohammed bin Salman has become a pariah in Western capitals.

The crown prince might still rescue himself, but only if he finally needs the advice Khashoggi offered him: Release female activists and other political prisoners and punish those who tortured them; and the war in Yemen, allow peaceful critics like Khashoggi to come home and speak freely. Last but not least, the crown prince should stop offering half-truths and accept full responsibility for ordering the murder.



LESTER PIRANAK/AP

Hatin Cengiz, center, the fiancée of slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, accompanied by his colleagues and friends, unveils a plaque Wednesday near the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul marking the one-year anniversary of his death.

We don't expect that to happen anytime soon. But we believe history will show that our friend and colleague Jamal Khashoggi was on the right side of the debate that Mohammed bin Salman thought, mistakenly, he could win with a bone saw.

China's Communist Party at 70: An unsustainable model

The Wall Street Journal

China's Communist Party on Tuesday marked the 70th anniversary of its 1949 revolution, and the fireworks and military parades celebrated the country's rise to become the world's second largest economy. Yet there is no denying that this anniversary comes with a paradoxical unease about China's place in the world. China is more powerful but less free than it was a decade ago and the world views its external aggression with growing concern.

China's rise since Deng Xiaoping set the party on the path of market reform 40 years ago has few historical parallels. China has taken advantage of open markets in the West, and the lure of its domestic market of 1.4 billion people to foreign investors, to lift hundreds of millions out of poverty and become an export and increasingly a technology behemoth. The U.S. and the world have for the most part benefited from this development. Imagine the alternative if China had remained stagnant and its people sought to emigrate in the millions.

For a time, even after the massacre at Tiananmen Square, it seemed possible that China might also evolve to toward more political freedom. Those hopes have been dashed, starting in the years of Hu Jintao and especially in the ascendancy of President Xi Jinping. At home, economic reforms have stalled as the Party maintains political control over finance and refuses to reform state-owned industries. President Donald Trump's policies have exposed a vulnerability in China's export-dependent economic model that relies too much on theft and predatory behavior against foreign companies. Beijing must impose currency controls to stop capital flight by Chinese who want a safe haven abroad.

This retrenchment in economic reform has coincided with increasingly draconian political control at home. Self-confident regimes don't jail human-rights lawyers, crack down on churches or create a Great Firewall and employ tens of thousands of censors to control the internet. Most horrifying has been the effort to eliminate the culture and religion of the Uighur Muslim population in the western region of Xinjiang.

Then there is China's attempt to dominate the Asia-Pacific, often by bullying its weaker neighbors. It has illegally occupied islands in the South China Sea and

turned them into de facto military bases. Its burgeoning navy harasses foreign ships in international waters. The attempt to renege on China's promise of autonomy for Hong Kong fits the pattern. Even its use of soft power via its Belt and Road initiative comes with the catch of excessive debt that has left China in control of foreign ports.

Many Chinese leaders, and citizens who see only state-controlled media, view all of this as the return of the Middle Kingdom to its rightful prominence in global affairs. But Chinese leaders also know that their behavior is producing a global backlash that they should not underestimate. Trump's policy reflects a new bipartisan American consensus that China's economic abuses must be confronted. The last three U.S. administrations have worked to build a loose alliance of states, notably Japan and India, to counter Chinese military power. This will not change no matter who is U.S. president in 2021.

We are not among those who believe that China's economy must be decoupled from America's or that China must be "contained" a la the Soviet Union. At least not yet. China's economy can't be sent into recession without damaging consequences for American workers and companies. The U.S. needs to coexist with a rising China, cooperating when it makes sense but pushing back when China violates global norms. This will be the great test of statesmanship for a generation or more.

Yet how this drama turns out will depend more on how China's ruling Communist Party behaves. The party's legitimacy depends on economic growth that will be harder to sustain as it must innovate to prosper. The rest of the world will no longer let China steal its way to dominance, and it will not passively allow the Indo-Pacific to become part of a modern Chinese dynasty. China will prosper more if it plays by the rules of world order.

Federal directive has reduced violent crime in Miss. county

The Neshoba Democrat, Philadelphia, Miss.

If you're looking for a little glimmer of hope, a directive by President Donald Trump to reduce violent crimes is having a positive impact in Jackson, Miss., reducing the violent crime rate by 7% while slashing carjackings in half.

The crackdown has had an impact here in Neshoba County as well, thanks to the efforts of local law enforcement in helping to run down a meth dealer.

U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst's overarching goal since being appointed by Trump in 2017 has been to get the office back to work, more than doubling prosecutions his

first year.

As part of that effort, in March, a Philadelphia, Miss., man was sentenced to more than 22 years in federal prison for trafficking meth. The charges stemmed from a multi-state task force investigation dubbed "Operation Highlife." The network, involving in the distribution of meth, cocaine and marijuana, is believed to have encompassed California, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi.

Hurst, speaking to the Canton Rotary Club weeks ago, championed the crackdown mandated by the Trump administration, which is why elections matter.

While violent crime had been on the decline nationally for a decade, the rate shot back up in 2015 and 2016. In December 2017, soon after Hurst was appointed, his office initiated Project EJECT — Empower Justice, Expel Crime Together — a collaborative between the Jackson Police Department and the feds to focus on getting violent offenders off the streets of the capital. Jackson was the seventh-most deadly city in the nation at that time. The violent crime rate was 200% higher than the national rate and 120% higher than the state rate.

In the first full year, 120 individuals were indicted and two-thirds have already been convicted.

"This is a big thing," Hurst said because the feds were able to obtain 95 percent of the suspects until trial whereas in the past suspects were mocking the police about being able to get out of jail.

The average sentence with Project EJECT is hovering around five years in federal prison. "And we know it's working because we're hearing things the criminals are saying," Hurst said.

The bad guys realize the feds are in town and it's a whole different ballgame.

For those getting out of prison, the program speaks to jobs and career options, school or learning a trade. There's help getting a driver's license or birth certificate.

A 7% reduction in violent crime in Jackson means 180 fewer victims. Lives matter and elections matter.

Calif. law just the 1st allowing college athletes to collect pay

San Francisco Chronicle

The NCAA should check the scoreboard. Despite all its bluster about kicking California's universities out of national competition, it lost big last week when the governor signed state Sen. Nancy Skinner's bill to allow compensation of college athletes.

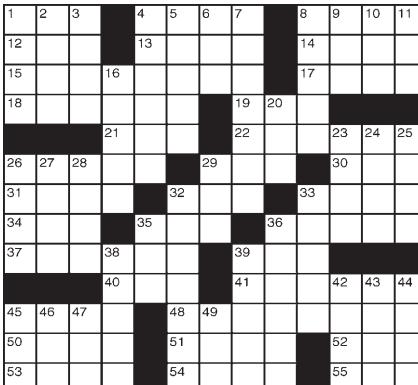
And while one might not know it from Gov. Gavin Newsom's self-aggrandizing bill signing during a taping of LeBron James' HBO show on Sept. 27, the NCAA was crushed in the California Legislature even before the Berkeley Democrat's legislation landed on the desk of the man the Lakers star called "Governor Gaw." The bill, which permits college athletes to be paid for the use of their names, images or likenesses in direct contradiction of NCAA rules, passed both chambers with overwhelming bipartisan support and without a single vote against it.

The association can't easily ignore the sheer size and economic impact of California and its universities. Moreover, legislators in New York, Florida, Pennsylvania and other states have proposed similar measures. That means it's time for the NCAA and the universities that joined it in opposing Skinner's bill to stop playing defense for an indefensible position.

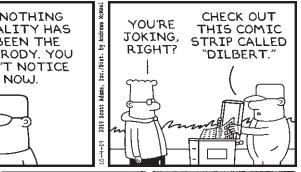
College sports is an industry — one that made more than \$14 billion last year, according to the U.S. Department of Education, a figure that has more than tripled over the past 15 years. And yet the big-time schools spend more on coaches alone than they do on their student-athletes, of which there are 10 times as many.

California's law doesn't take effect until 2023. That gives the NCAA plenty of time to develop national rules that share the revenue equitably with its workforce.

Frazz

**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

Dilbert

**ACROSS**

1 Short 'do
4 Arm bone
8 Shirt protectors
12 Consumed
13 Lunch hour
14 Actor's part
15 Burden (with)
16 Cameo stone
18 City subways
19 Olympics chant
21 French article
22 Topical antiseptic
26 Maxim
29 "Incidentally,"
in a text
30 Head of st.
31 Privation
32 Sob
33 Morse —
34 Six, in Sicily
35 Large snake
36 Stable mothers
37 Speaker
39 Badly lit
40 Possess
41 Big name in flatware
45 Prosperous period
48 File transfer
50 Pre-diploma hurdle
51 Guessers' words
52 Part of TNT
53 Whig rival

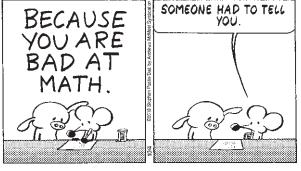
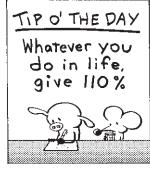
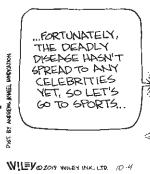
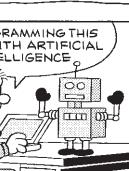
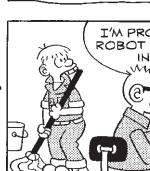
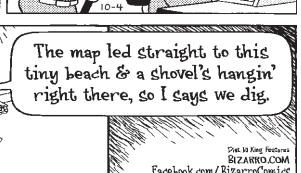
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2 Oklahoma tribe
3 Tempo
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6 At once
7 Retirement
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8 Wide
9 Charged bit
10 Journalist Nellie
11 Gender
16 Medications
20 Plant seeds
23 "Young
Frankenstein"
role
24 Protuberance
12 Greek vowel
43 "Phoeey!"
44 Tennis score
45 Wager
46 Tic-tac-toe loser
47 Rowing need
49 Bobby of hockey

Answer to Previous Puzzle

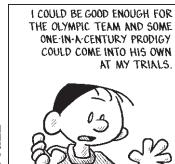
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Pearls Before Swine

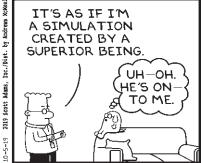
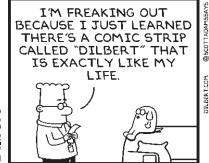
**NON SEQUITUR****Candorville****Carpe Diem****Beetle Bailey****Bizarro****10-4**

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 T E M G D Q P - R D M G G U B B F X ' R
 Z M R M F G R F Z U E P X F F B ? I N U
 R N V E - L U M ' R R N V E L U P U R .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I TOTALLY ADORE SMALL AUSSIE MARSUPIALS AND I EMULATE THEM. PERHAPS I'M A WALLABY WANNABE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals M

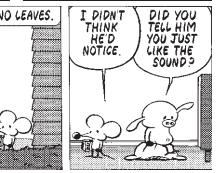
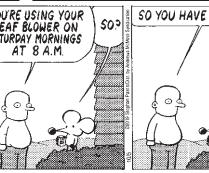
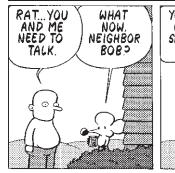
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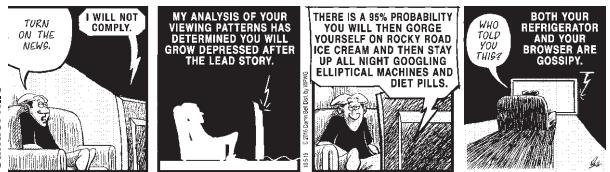
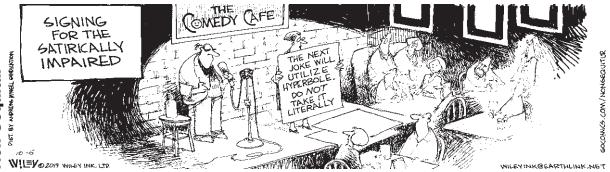
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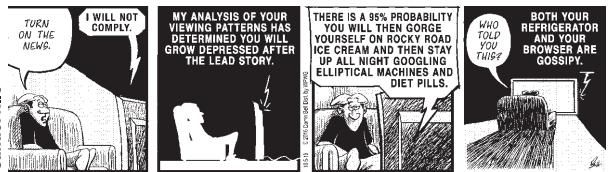
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



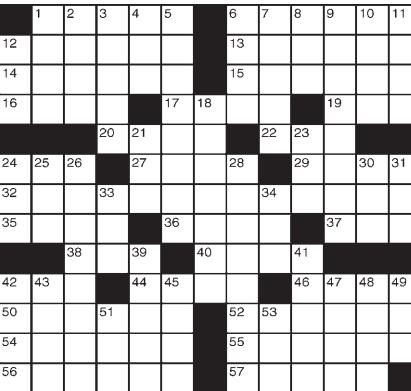
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 Health insurance giant
6 Nap
12 Oscar-winning composer Legrand
13 Push forward
14 Unprincipled
15 Supermarket sections
16 Norway's capital
17 Billions of years
18 Punk-rock subgenre
20 — Maw
22 Solo of "Star Wars"
24 Montmartre Mrs.
27 Scored 100 on 29 Mid-month date
32 Fruit dessert made with vanilla wafers
35 Jason's ship
36 Mexican snack
37 Speck
38 Under the weather
40 Furniture brand
42 Day light
44 Melodies
46 Shopper's aid
50 Wilfies
52 Circular window
54 Black Sea port
55 Reballed

24 CEO's deg.
25 Blernish
26 Train driver
28 1933 Marx Brothers film
30 Rock's Brian
31 Pvt.'s superior
33 "You've got mail" ISP
34 Female hare
39 Expire
41 Honda's upscale brand
42 Highlander
43 Pakistan's language
45 "This — outrage!"
47 Oodles
48 Strategam
49 Mao — -tung
51 Language suffix
53 YMCA class

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	O	B	U	L	N	A	B	I	S
A	T	E	N	O	N	R	O	L	E
L	O	A	D	D	O	W	N	O	Y
M	E	T	R	O	S	U	A		
E	U	N	E	I	O	D	I	N	E
A	D	A	G	E	B	T	W	G	O
L	O	S	C	R	Y	C	O	D	E
S	E	I	B	O	A	M	A	R	E
O	R	A	T	O	R	D	I	M	
O	W	N	O	N	E	I	D	A	

10-5

CRYPTOQUIP

W T A Z N Z R E T E H K C N Q I T B

W B M K C Q F C I M G A N Z H F N K J C

E Q T M Y E J B W Z Y C A S I K T

M J C A Y N K : C S B G G I W C A I.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MAKES MY MUSCULAR, WRINKLY-SKINNED DOG'S VISION SO VERY GOOD? THE SHAR-PEI'S SHARP EYES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals O



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NHL

Blue Jackets relying on Swedes

Quartet expected to give Columbus scoring punch

By MITCH STACY

Associated Press

The Columbus Blue Jackets are looking to Sweden to help fill the scoring void left by departed star forward Artemi Panarin.

More specifically, the Blue Jackets are relying on a quartet of Swedes — two of them rookies who haven't played in North America before — for some scoring punch as they open the season Friday night against Toronto at Nationwide Arena.

Twenty-year-old Emil Bemstrom and 26-year-old Jakob Lilja played together on the same Swedish elite league team last year, and both made the Blue Jackets' opening night roster out of coach John Tortorella's notoriously rigorous training camp.

Bemstrom, a fourth-round pick of the Blue Jackets in the 2017 draft, was a scoring machine in Sweden. Lilja was signed as a free agent and impressed the Blue Jackets in the prospects tournament in Michigan. Both could end up skating together on the fourth line on either side of veteran Riley Nash.

"It's a really different game," Lilja said. "Smaller ice, so like if you lose the puck in the wrong places it's creating scoring chances right away. The players are really skilled, so you don't want to lose the puck to them. Overall, it's like a high-speed game. Even at the pro level in Sweden it's really defensive. So just better players and smaller ice, so everything goes a little bit faster."

The other two members of the Swedish coalition will be expected to bear more of the burden as the Blue Jackets try to return to the playoffs for the fourth straight season.

Center Alexander Wennberg, 25, will try to fulfill the great promise he showed three seasons ago when he put up 59 points for Columbus and seemed poised to break out. Veteran Gustav Nyquist is a solid top-six forward who was signed as a free agent after registering 60 points last season with Detroit and San Jose. The two are slated to skate together on the second line.

Rookie Alexandre Texier is expected to take Panarin's place on the top line with center Pierre-

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	0	1	0	0	2	5	3
Detroit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montreal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ottawa	1	0	1	0	1	3	5

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	1	1	0	0	2	3	2
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.Y. Islanders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Columbus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Western Conference

	Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	1	0	1	0	1	1	2
Winnipeg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nashville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dallas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	1	0	1	0	2	4	1
Edmonton	1	1	0	0	3	3	2
Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anaheim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Jose	1	0	1	0	2	1	3
Vancouver	1	0	1	0	2	1	3

Note: Two wins are needed for a win, three points per conference advance to playoffs.

Games Toronto 5, Ottawa 3
Washington 3, St. Louis 2, OT
Edmonton 3, Los Angeles 2
Vegas 4, San Jose 1

Thursday's games

Montreal at Boston
Buffalo at Pittsburgh

Florida at Tampa Bay

Winnipeg at New Jersey

Vegas at St. Louis

Friday's games

Chicago vs. St. Louis at Prague

Washington vs. N.Y. Islanders

Toronto at Columbus

Winnipeg at New Jersey

Vegas at St. Louis

Saturday's games

Tampa Bay at Florida

Montreal at Boston

Columbus at Pittsburgh

New Jersey at Buffalo

Montreal at Washington

N.Y. Rangers at Ottawa

Dallas at St. Louis

Buffalo at Minnesota

Minnesota at Colorado

Dallas at Arizona

San Jose at St. Louis

Vancouver at Calgary

Los Angeles at Edmonton

Dallas at Detroit

Vegas at N.Y. Islanders

Sunday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina

Dallas at Detroit

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders

Monday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina

Dallas at Detroit

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders

Tuesday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina

Dallas at Detroit

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders

Wednesday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina

Dallas at Detroit

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders

Thursday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina

Dallas at Detroit

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders

Friday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina

Dallas at Detroit

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders

Saturday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina

Dallas at Detroit

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders

Sunday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina

Dallas at Detroit

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders

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Dallas at Detroit

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders

Tuesday's games

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Dallas at Detroit

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders

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Dallas at Detroit

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders

Sunday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Fromm here to there: QB credits Vols' Chaney

Georgia QB says coach taught him 'big-boy' football

BY CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Jake Fromm wants to show his former mentor how well he learned his lessons.

Fromm, No. 3 Georgia's quarterback, says Jim Chaney, the Bulldogs' former offensive coordinator, "really kind of introduced me to this pro-style offense."

Chaney left Georgia after the 2018 season to take control of Tennessee's offense. The Bulldogs visit the Vols on Saturday night.

Fromm said he remains grateful for Chaney's key role in his development.

"He did a great job of really kind of taking me in and teaching me the game of football and really seeing it from a different perspective," Fromm said Monday.

"I kind of got introduced to big-boy football in a pro-style offense and different terminologies and different passing concepts. I learned a lot of football under him and I really thank him for that."

Georgia (4-0, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) will be looking to protect its unbeaten record when it visits Tennessee (1-3, 0-1). The Vols are rebuilding under Jeremy Pruitt, Georgia's former defensive coordinator.

Fromm is flourishing in his third season as Georgia's starter. He has completed almost 76% of his passes (62-for-82) for 788 yards, six touchdowns and no interceptions.

Well-grounded: No. 14 Hawkeyes revive run game

BY LUKE MEREDITH
Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Iowa's offense sputtered at times over the past few years because it never quite knew what it might get out of its rushing attack.

The 14th-ranked Hawkeyes are soaring this season behind a ground game that appears to have found its way.

Iowa (4-0, 1-0 Big Ten) heads into a crucial early showdown with No. 19 Michigan (3-1, 1-1) on the heels of one of its best days running the ball in years.

The Hawkeyes racked up 351 yards on the ground in last week's 48-3 blowout of Middle Tennessee, powering an offense that finished with 644 yards. That total was the most in coach Kirk Ferentz's 21 seasons in charge.

Iowa averaged 5.18 yards per carry in 2019 — a leap of 1.3 yards from a year ago and 1.4 yards in 2017 — and it hasn't lost a fumble in three games.

"I can't pinpoint one thing. It's a collective effort," junior running back Toren Young said. "The offensive line is doing a



JOHN BAZEMORE, ABOVE, AND CAITIE MCKEIN, KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL, RIGHT/AP

Georgia quarterback Jake Fromm, above, says Jim Chaney, right, the Bulldogs' former offensive coordinator, "really kind of introduced me to this pro-style offense." Now Chaney is running Tennessee's offense, and Fromm and his teammates will visit the Vols on Saturday.

The Bulldogs are still a run-first offense. Other quarterbacks have more flashy passing totals. Fromm has avoided mistakes while ranking eighth in the nation in completion percentage.

"To me, he does as good of a job as anybody in the country, and maybe as anybody I've ever coached against, as far as keeping their offense in a positive situation," Pruitt said. "He takes care of the football, gets the ball out of his hand, controls protection, keeps them in positive run plays."

Fromm's fourth-quarter touchdown pass to Lawrence Cager gave the Bulldogs a 23-17 win

over then-No. 7 Notre Dame two weeks ago in a matchup of top-10 teams.

Chaney's familiarity with Georgia's players and schemes provides a backdrop to the game.

Tennessee center Brandon Kennedy said Chaney's insights have "had a lot of impact" on the Vols' preparations.

"It's been very helpful, just knowing like the game plan and what they're going to do because he's practiced against them for however long he's been there," Kennedy said. "It's been a great tool."

Similarly, Georgia coaches know Chaney's scheme and play-

calling tendencies.

"It'll be interesting," Fromm said. "It should be good for our defense because they know a lot about what he does in his system, but he also knows a lot about us and what we do in our system. ... It's going to be good for both tool."

Tennessee gave Chaney a \$1.5 million salary — more money than any offensive coordinator in the nation was paid in 2018 — to leave Georgia. Alabama's Steve Sarkisian is making \$1.55 million this year.

Chaney's offense ranks last in the SEC in total yards and 12th in scoring. Led by Fromm, Georgia



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Toren Young ran for 131 of Iowa's 351 yards on the ground Saturday in a 48-3 defeat of Middle Tennessee.

great job of blocking. The receivers, tight ends and fullbacks are doing a great job of blocking. I think, as running backs, we are doing a better job of seeing the bigger picture, understanding the concepts."

Arguably Iowa's biggest priority in the offseason was to fix its rushing attack, a foundational piece of a program that's constantly striving both for balance and to control the clock.

The Hawkeyes were 95th nationally in rushing offense in 2018 and 97th two seasons ago despite running the ball 56% of the time during those years.

No. 25 Spartans face brutal October schedule in Big Ten

BY NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Forget about waiting until the stretch run in November. Michigan State will find out right now how it measures up against the Big Ten's top teams.

Ohio State, Wisconsin and Penn State — all in a row, the first two on the road. That's the October schedule the 25th-ranked Spartans face.

First up is No. 4 Ohio State, which has won its last four games by at least 41 points, including a 48-7 rout of Nebraska last weekend. Some of Mark Dantonio's greatest wins as Michigan State's coach were against the Buckeyes, but the Spartans have managed only nine points total in their last two meetings with Ohio State.

"I think it's a measuring stick. I'm sure with the win comes more opportunities, and you get ready to play the next one as well. We've got two big ones," Dantonio said.

Michigan State will at least have an open date between the Wisconsin and Penn State games, but that feels a long way off

with the Buckeyes looming. The transition from Urban Meyer to new coach Ryan Day has gone well so far, with Ohio State looking every bit the juggernaut it usually is.

The Spartans beat Ohio State in 2011, 2013 and 2015 — and those were all pretty special seasons at Michigan State. The Kirk Cousins-led Spartans made the Big Ten title game in 2011, then Michigan State won the conference in 2013, beating Meyer and the Buckeyes for the championship. In 2015, a win at Ohio State vaulted the Spartans to another conference title and a spot in the College Football Playoff.

"Ohio State has been a dominant program in this conference," Dantonio said. "I don't think I'm letting the cat out of the bag here."

This will be the earliest matchup between Michigan State and Ohio State since 2012, when they played in late September. Then the Spartans will have to face what looks like a formidable Wisconsin team. Michigan State has had its ups and downs already, losing at home to Arizona State but starting Big Ten play with wins over Northwestern and Indiana.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



VASHA HUNT/AP

Southern Miss defensive back Rachuan Mitchell, right, knocks away a long pass to Alabama wide receiver Jerry Jeudy last month in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Behind quarterback Tua Tagovailoa and a talented receiving corps, the Tide have thrown for twice as many yards (1,903 to 870) and touchdowns (24 to nine) as they've run for.

Supreme: Even SEC is all-in on passing offenses

FROM BACK PAGE

That's an understatement for the SEC.

An eye-opening 12 of the league's 14 teams are gaining more yards this season in the air than on the ground:

■ No. 5 LSU leads the way with quarterback Joe Burrow controlling an offense that's thrown for 1,727 yards, more than three times as many as its run for.

■ No. 1 Alabama, quarterback Tua Tagovailoa has thrown 24 TD passes to a talented, fast group of receivers that includes Jerry Jeudy and Henry Ruggs III.

■ And No. 3 Georgia, where its legacy of backs like Herschel Walker, Todd Gurley and Terrell Davis is cherished Between the Hedges, has spread things out a bit to gain most of its yard by the pass.

Vanderbilt coach Derek Mason said it's not complicated, he believes it's simple math. Why make someone in the backfield burst through six or seven defenders when you can let a skill player slip one tackler and break off a big play.

"Most teams in the SEC are looking at their roster that way," he said.

The shift is based on the talented quarterbacks at the helm, said ex-Arkansas and Ole Miss coach Houston Nutt.

During his 14 years as a head coach, Nutt worked to defend 1-formation runners and win the battle in the trenches. Now, with playmakers like Tagovailoa, Burrow and Fromm, there's always a threat on the outside that can't be matched by handing off 40 or 50 times a game, Nutt said.

"Right now, they're spreading them out and you've got to defend them," said Nutt, speaking after an appearance at the Knoxville QB Club.

South Carolina coach Will Muschamp, who coordinated a national title defense at LSU, believes the playing field has changed because of enhanced techniques of preparing high school players like seven-on-seven tournaments and individual training.

"I think that quarterbacks, skill players and defensive backs when you get them now, they're so much further along," he said.

Alabama coach Nick Saban has gone all in on the spread after winning five national titles with the likes of Heisman Trophy winners Mark Ingram and Derrick Henry at tailback.

Only two years ago, the Crimson Tide relied on runners Damien Harris and Bo Scarborough and quarterback Jalen Hurts to rush for 3,509 yards on the way to their last national crown. Alabama threw

only 332 times that season, averaging less than 194 yards passing a game and scoring 28 TDs by pass — fewer than its 36 rushing touchdowns.

Things have flipped for Saban's Crimson Tide in a big way.

Behind Tagovailoa and their talented receiving corps, the Tide have thrown for over twice as many yards (1,903 to 870) and touchdowns (24 to 10) as they've run for.

Then there's LSU, which three years ago had Leonard Fournette and Derrius Guice in the backfield and front and center of its offense. Fournette and Guice combined for 2,230 yards — nearly matching the Tigers' passing output of 2,281 — and 23 touchdowns.

This year, LSU ranks second in SEC passing and 13th in league rushing.

LSU's Burrow is second in the SEC in passing yards and total offense per game. His 17 passing touchdowns outstrip the Tigers' ground total of 11.

Saban believes more talented skill players coming out of high schools and more creative play-calling to force defenses to cover the whole field instead of a tight center at the line of scrimmage have opened things up.

"I think the combination of those things probably has changed our league just like it's changed football in general."

But not everyone has given up on featuring the run.

No. 7 Auburn leads the SEC in rushing at 251 yards a game and tailback JaTarvious "Boobee" Whittle is third in the league with 92.6 yards per game.

The Tigers have thrown for just eight touchdowns, nearly half of the 17 they have scored on the ground this fall.

Mississippi State is the other SEC team that gains more on the ground than the air. Kylan Hill, a junior, leads the league at 119.2 yards per game as the only rusher averaging 100 or more yards a contest.

Danielson, the former quarterback who broadcasts SEC games for CBS, doesn't see the emphasis on speed and spread changing — unless defenses uncover better ways to slow them down.

"This is where the game has gone," he said, "and it's hard to see that changing back."

AP sports writers Steve MacIntyre in Knoxville, Tenn.; Teresa Walker in Nashville, Tenn.; Brett Martell in Baton Rouge, La.; and John Zener in Tuscaloosa, Ala., contributed to this report.

LB White emerges as leader on 'D' for Fighting Irish

Unheralded junior lets his play do the talking

BY TODD BURLAKE
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Maybe it was the injuries. Or the light-weight recruiting profile. Or maybe it was playing at one of the deepest positions at Notre Dame.

Whatever the reason, Drew White is aware that earning the starting job at middle linebacker came as a surprise to some.

"I never really saw it that way," said White, who ranks third on the Fighting Irish this season with 21 tackles and leads the team with six tackles for loss. "I don't really get it."

White suffered a broken ankle as a sophomore in the spring of 2018 and then broke his shoulder this year during spring break in a "freeze" snow skiing accident that didn't sit well with his coaches.

"I had no problem with going on a family vacation, but you're also on a scholarship," coach Brian Kelly said. "The good part about it is it's behind us. He worked through it."

White will make his fifth start of the season Saturday when No. 9 Notre Dame (3-1) plays at home against Bowling Green (1-3). It's been a halting climb for White, who was a two-year starter at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and led his state-championship team in tackles both of those seasons.

Still, most recruiting services ranked White as a three-star recruit at best. At 6 feet and 230 pounds, White doesn't appear to be a physically imposing figure in the middle of a defense where linebackers Te'von Coney and Drue Tranquill so recently roamed. It all may help to explain why White remained an afterthought during his first two seasons at Notre Dame.

"He is somewhat inconspicuous," said Aquinas head football coach Roger Harrington. "So you don't expect him to move that fast, or be as physical and as strong as he is."

White let his game do the talking and earned the trust of his coaches last season in a fill-in starting role against Navy, the only extended action of his career before this season. With Tranquill out with an ankle injury, White was asked to help defend Navy's complex triple-option rushing attack. He responded with five tackles in a 44-22 Irish win.

"I already believed that I was ready to play at this level and I was just waiting for my shot," White joked.



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Notre Dame middle linebacker Drew White ranks third on the Fighting Irish this season with 21 tackles and leads the team with six tackles for loss.

White said. "But definitely the Navy game gave me a boost of confidence and showed me that I'm ready."

After Tranquill returned, White played only four games of the final five games of the season. He cemented his place as a starter this season in the opener against Louisville with five tackles, two tackles for loss and one sack.

He added four tackles against New Mexico and five more against Georgia before a career-best seven last Saturday in a 35-20 win against Virginia.

"We needed that kind of production from the middle linebacker position," Kelly said in reference to replacing two of his top three tacklers from last season in Coney and Tranquill. "Somebody was going to have to give it to us."

With two surgeries during his time at Notre Dame, limited off-season work the last two years and facing a group of top linebackers recruits to compete against in training camp, White's journey from scout team to starter seemed unlikely.

"That guy's a winner," Irish defensive coordinator Clark Lea said of White's resiliency. "He's fought through adversity and hasn't wavered, hasn't backed down and has been counted out probably 100 times."

"And about that skiing?"

"I will not be going skiing again until after I'm done playing football," White joked.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Friday

- No. 18 UCF at Cincinnati
- Saturday**
- No. 3 Georgia at Tennessee
- No. 4 Ohio State vs. No. 25 Michigan State
- No. 5 LSU vs. Utah State
- No. 6 Oklahoma at Kansas
- No. 7 Wisconsin at No. 19 Florida
- No. 8 Wisconsin vs. Kent State
- No. 9 Notre Dame vs. Bowling Green
- No. 11 Texas at West Virginia
- No. 12 Penn State vs. Purdue
- No. 13 Oregon vs. California
- No. 14 Iowa at No. 19 Michigan
- No. 15 Washington State
- No. 16 Boise State at UNLV
- No. 21 Oklahoma State at Texas Tech
- No. 24 SMU vs. Tulsa

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Air Force (3-1)

- at Navy (2-1), Saturday
- Last week:** beat San Jose State 41-24

Army (3-1)

- vs. Tulane (3-1), Saturday
- Last week:** did not play

Navy (2-1)

- vs. Air Force (2-1), Saturday
- Last week:** lost to Memphis 35-23

POWER FIVE STANDINGS

ACC Atlantic Division	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Clemson	1	0	0	2	0	0
Wake Forest	2	0	0	2	0	0
Florida State	2	1	0	3	2	0
Georgia College	1	0	0	2	2	0
NC State	0	1	0	1	2	0
Syracuse	0	1	0	1	2	0
Louisville	0	1	0	2	2	0
Coastal Division						
Virginia	2	0	0	4	1	0
Duke	1	1	0	2	2	0
North Carolina	1	1	0	3	1	0
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	3	2	0
Miami	0	1	0	3	2	0
Georgia Tech	0	1	0	3	2	0
Virginia Tech	0	2	0	2	2	0
Big 12						
Conference	W	L	T	W	L	T
Baylor	1	0	0	4	0	0
Oklahoma	1	0	0	4	0	0
TCU	1	0	0	4	0	0
Texas	1	0	0	3	1	0
West Virginia	1	0	0	3	1	0
Oklahoma State	1	1	0	4	1	0
Iowa State	0	1	0	2	2	0
Texas Tech	0	1	0	2	2	0
Kansas	0	2	0	2	3	0
Big Ten						
East Conference	W	L	T	W	L	T
Ohio State	2	0	0	4	0	0
Michigan State	2	0	0	4	0	0
Penn State	2	0	0	4	0	0
Michigan	1	1	0	3	1	0
Maryland	0	2	0	3	2	0
Indiana	0	2	0	3	2	0
Rutgers	0	2	1	3	2	0
West						
Wisconsin	2	0	0	4	0	0
Minnesota	1	0	0	4	0	0
Nebraska	1	1	0	3	2	0
Illinois	0	1	0	2	2	0
Purdue	0	1	0	2	2	0
Northwestern	0	2	0	1	3	0
Pac-12						
North Conference	W	L	T	W	L	T
Oregon	1	0	0	2	0	0
California	1	0	0	2	0	0
Washington	1	1	0	4	1	0
Stanford	0	2	0	3	1	0
Oregon State	0	2	0	2	3	0
Washington State	0	2	0	3	2	0
South						
Colorado	1	0	0	3	1	0
Arizona	1	0	0	3	1	0
Southern Cal	1	1	0	4	1	0
Utah	1	1	0	4	1	0
Arizona State	1	1	0	4	1	0
UCLA	1	1	0	4	1	0
SEC						
East Conference	W	L	T	W	L	T
Florida	2	0	0	5	0	0
Georgia	1	0	0	5	0	0
Missouri	1	0	0	5	0	0
South Carolina	1	2	0	4	2	0
Tennessee	0	2	0	4	2	0
Vanderbilt	0	2	0	1	3	0
Kentucky	0	3	0	1	3	0
West						
Alabama	2	0	0	5	0	0
Auburn	2	0	0	5	0	0
LSU	1	1	0	4	2	0
Texas A&M	1	1	0	4	2	0
Mississippi State	1	1	0	4	2	0
Mississippi	0	2	0	4	2	0
Arkansas	0	2	0	4	2	0



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Florida quarterback Kyle Trask throws a pass as he's hit by Towson linebacker Christian Dixon last week in Gainesville, Fla. The Gators have a tougher test on Saturday against Auburn, which boasts NFL talent across its defensive line.

KEY POWER FIVE MATCHUPS

No. 25 Michigan State (4-1)

at No. 4 Ohio State (5-0)

1:30 a.m. Sunday CET

8:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

AFN-Atlantic

No. 7 Auburn (5-0)

at No. 10 Florida (5-0)

9:30 p.m. Saturday CET

4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

AFN-Atlantic

Utah State (3-1)

at No. 5 LSU (4-0)

6 p.m. Saturday CET

1 a.m. Sunday JKT

AFN-Atlantic

Series record — Ohio State leads 32-15.

What's at stake? — Michigan State's defense is one of the best in the country, but the unit may have difficulty containing quarterback Justin Fields and a Buckeyes offense that is coming off a 48-7 dismantling of Nebraska. Ohio State is not making many mistakes on either side of the ball but will be playing a ranked team for the first time this season.

Key matchup — Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields vs. Michigan State's defense. Fields has accounted for 23 touchdowns — 16 passing, seven running — and his 138 points responsible for is second in the nation. Michigan State has the fourth-best running defense in the country and is limiting opponents to an average of 15 points per game. The unit has caused 10 turnovers.

Players to watch — Ohio State: RB JK Dobbins. The Buckeyes' No. 1 tailback has been nearly unstoppable and could have gaudier numbers if not for giving way to backups in every game. He has 654 yards and five touchdowns in five games. He's averaging over 7 yards per carry.

Michigan State: QB Brian Lewerke. The fifth-year player leads the Big Ten in total passing yards (1,325) and completions (104) and is tied for second with 10 TD passes. He's completed just under 60 percent of his passes and has just one interception.

Facts & figures — The Spartans have defeated the Buckeyes three times since 2011. ... The most of any team in the Big Ten. ... The Buckeyes are outscoring opponents by 43.8 points per game. ... The Ohio State defense has allowed just 43 points, with 17 of them coming in Big Ten wins over Nebraska and Indiana. The unit ranks fourth nationally in scoring defense, surrendering an average of just over eight points per game. ... Spartans All-American linebacker Joe Bachie leads the Big Ten with 46 tackles. Joe Bachie leads the Big Ten with 46 tackles.

Series record — LSU leads 2-0.

What's at stake? — LSU must win its final non-conference game of the season if the Tigers want to maintain a top-five ranking and remain firmly in contention for a College Football Playoff bid. Utah State seeks a statement victory but otherwise wants to get out of Death Valley in good health before resuming Mountain West Conference play.

Key matchup — Utah State's vaunted defensive front versus Florida's struggling offensive line. The Tigers have NFL talent across their D-line that features seniors Marlon Davidson and Derrick Brown. Auburn only has 13 sacks, but ranks third in the league against the run. The Gators coach Dan Mullen ripped his O-line after another lackluster performance last week and challenged them to play better.

Players to watch — Auburn: Sophomore RB Jarrett Whitehead is averaging 92.6 yards a game on the ground and has scored seven touchdowns, including at least one in each of the last four weeks.

Florida: Senior LB Jon Gandy. Gandy is wreaking havoc on opposing offenses. He's tied for the league lead with four sacks, but he also has 6½ tackles and a forced fumble and an interception.

Facts & figures — Utah State is 19-4 in its last 23 games under coach Gary Andersen. ... Utah State has scored 20 or more points in 21 straight games, the third-longest active streak in the nation behind Oklahoma (45) and Ohio State (32). ... Junior WR Savon Scarver leads the nation in kickoff return average at 41.4 yards. Scarver also led the nation in that category last season with 33.7 yards per return. ... LSU is 4-0 for the 11th time since 2003. ... The Tigers defeated Utah State 38-19 in 1993 and 31-24 in 2001. ... LSU has scored 45 or more points in 11 games this season.

Facts & figures — Utah State is 19-4 in its last

— Associated Press

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

All-America watch

Okudah grabs his share of attention

Buckeyes' CB getting noticed by NFL scouts

By MITCH STACY

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jeff Okudah already was on the radar of NFL scouts as he began his second season as a starting cornerback for Ohio State. Most observers agreed he was a good-sized, tough, fast pass defenser — even with a big fat zero on his career stat line for interceptions.

Suddenly, he has three picks in the last two weeks — two in a prime-time Saturday night win over Nebraska — and his profile and NFL stock are rising.

The junior from Texas acknowledged that the first interception — which came in his 31st game and was overshadowed by the Buckeyes' offensive onslaught in a 76-5 rout of Miami (Ohio) — helped to "kind of get a monkey off my back."

"I think it did give me some confidence to show myself I could do it," he said. "Then coming out and following up with a pretty good performance, I think that speaks to the confidence I came into the game with."

Last Saturday, he broke in front of Wan'Dale Robinson on Nebraska's first possession for his first pick. Two Husker possessions later, Okudah grabbed a tipped ball out of the air while lying flat on his back.

"Sometimes you've got to thank the football gods," he said.

Coach Ryan Day said Okudah has thrived in the new defensive scheme installed by co-coordinators Greg Mattison and Jeff Hafley. The latter also is the defensive backs coach Okudah credits with making him a better player this season and he could end up in the mix for awards or honors like the Associated Press All-American team. The scheme is a mix of zone and man-to-man coverage with more flexibility than the strict man-coverage alignments the past few seasons.

"He's gotten with Jeff Hafley and our defensive scheme, and it seems to be a good fit right now," Day said Tuesday. "They're off to a great start. Any time you come in with another year (of) experience, another year in the program, I think that really matters. I think it's a combination — he's a year older and he's really embraced the style of defense."

Hafley said he believes Okudah, a former five-star recruit, has improved with experience and has learned to practice harder and prepare better for the No. 4 Buckeyes.

"He's spending a lot of time lis-



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Ohio State cornerback Jeffery Okudah, left, has three interceptions in the past two weeks to raise his profile.

tening to the 'why,'" Hafley said. "Like he's starting to understand why certain (pass) routes are coming. So I think he's seeing the game a little bit different, and that slows it down for him. Mentally, I think he's becoming a better football player."

Hafley came to work for Day after the two coached together on the San Francisco 49ers.

"He's someone who changed my whole career," Okudah said.

On The Line

(SEC Network analyst Cole Cubelic, a former guard at Auburn, breaks down an offensive lineman playing at an All-American level)

Wyatt Davis, LG, Ohio State

The 313-pound sophomore moved into the starting lineup late last season due to injuries and has become an anchor on the Buckeyes' line this season.

"Davis was a machine versus Nebraska, using great pad level

to get movement at the point of attack," Cubelic said. "Helped in combo blocks to the second level. Plays with great technique and effort."

Group of 5 star

Louisiana junior running back Trey Ragas is averaging 9.7 yards a carry for the 4-1 Ragin' Cajuns.

All-America matchup

Prince Tega Wanogho, LT, Auburn vs. Jonathan Greenard, OLB, Florida.

Greenard, a transfer from Louisville, has been one of the best pass rushers in the SEC with four sacks. Wanogho has developed into one of the best tackles in the country and protects freshman QB Bo Nix's blindsides. The Gators are also expected to have their top defensive end, Jabari Zuniga, healthy and ready Saturday at The Swamp.



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Florida linebacker Jonathan Greenard, right, tackles Towson quarterback Tom Flacco in a game Sept. 28 in Gainesville, Fla. Greenard, a transfer from Louisville, has been a big-time pass rusher this season and has four sacks.

MLB PLAYOFFS



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Nationals starting pitcher Patrick Corbin listens to a question during a new conference prior to practice for Game 1 of the NLDS against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Nationals-Dodgers a star-studded matchup

BY BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Aces galore on the mound. Power hitters in the lineups. Hard-throwing relievers out of the bullpen.

The National League Division Series between the Washington Nationals and Los Angeles Dodgers is a perfect fit for Holywood. There are stars all over the field.

Having won a franchise-record 106 games in the regular season, the Dodgers are aiming for a third consecutive World Series appearance after losing to Houston and Boston the last two years.

"Our only goal is to win a championship," manager Dave Roberts said. "We are equipped to accomplish that goal."

The Nationals have a streak of their own they want to end: four losses in the Division Series since 2012.

The Nationals eked their way into this round with a dramatic wild-card victory over Milwaukee, helped by a Brewers error in the eighth inning. They slept in their own beds Wednesday night, flew all day Thursday and arrived at Dodger Stadium early in the evening for a workout ahead of the best-of-five series.

"We're all excited about what happened yesterday," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said, "but they understand what's ahead of them."

Here are some things to watch for in the best-of-five series:

Big three, times two

For the second straight year, Clayton Kershaw isn't opening the postseason for the Dodgers. A year ago, they went with Hyun-Jin Ryu against the Atlanta Braves, ending Kershaw's streak of six consecutive playoff appearances starting Game 1.

This year, right-hander Walker Buehler got the nod.

"Around here I don't know if one, two or three really matters," Buehler said. "The order's a little bit less significant than people want to make it out to be."

The same could be said of the Nationals, who went with Patrick Corbin in Game 1 for his postseason debut, their so-called

third ace among a trio that includes Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg.

"If you look at Corbin, Strasburg, we haven't had a whole lot of success against those two guys," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "The success or limited success we have had against Scherzer, it's very limited still."

Mr. Consistent

Washington third baseman Anthony Rendon is having a huge year. He batted .319 with 34 home runs and 126 RBIs, all career highs that have put him in the MVP conversation.

The 29-year-old All-Star attributes his numbers to mostly luck, joking that he gets a lot of cheap hits.

"I'm getting broken-bat hits, I'm getting flares, I'm trying to pull the ball to left field, and I'll hit it off the end and it will trickle down the right-field line, stuff like that," Rendon said.

Martinez has called Rendon "Mr. Consistent" since before he became manager last year.

"What makes him really good is that he's not afraid to hit with two strikes," Martinez said. "He'll battle you up there and hit the ball the other way. But when he gets to two strikes, there's no panic."

Bellinger's MVP bid

Cody Bellinger allowed himself to soak in the chants of "MVP! MVP!" during the Dodgers' regular-season finale in San Francisco. The slugger didn't have as strong a second half as before the All-Star break, but still ended up hitting .305 with 47 home runs and 115 RBIs.

"Now it's out of my hands, so I'm not going to worry about that right now and put all my focus in on these next games," he said.

Keeping it close

The Nationals haven't announced their starters for Games 2 and 3, which Roberts pointed out while declining to reveal which order Kershaw and Ryu will go in.

ALDS capsule

A look at the best-of-five American League Division Series between the Minnesota Twins and New York Yankees.

Schedule: Game 1, Friday, at New York; Game 2, Saturday, at New York, AFN-Sports, 11 p.m. CET, 6 a.m. (Sunday) JKT; Game 3, Monday, Oct. 7, at Minnesota; x-Game 10, at New York.

x-if necessary.

Season Series: Yankees won 4-2.

Projected Lineups

Twins: C Mitch Garver (.273, 31 HRs, 67 RBIs, .630 slugging percentage in 93 games), SS Jorge Polanco (.295, 22, 79, 40 2B), DH Nelson Cruz (.311, 41, 108, .639 slugging percentage in 120 games), 3B Miguel Sano (.247, 34, 79, 159 Ks in 105 games), LF Eddie Rosario (.276, 32, 109), CF Max Kepler (.252, 36, 90), 1B C.J. Cron (.253, 25, 78), RF Marwin Gonzalez (.264, 15, 55) or Jake Cave (.258, 8, 25 in 72 games) or LaMonte Wade Jr. (.196, 2, 5, 11 walks), 2B Jonathan Schoop (.256, 23, 59) or Luis Arraez (.334, 4, 28).

Yankees: 1B LeMahieu (.327, 26, 102), RF Aaron Judge (.272, 27, 55 in 102 games), CF Brett Gardner (.251, 28, 74), LF Giancarlo Stanton (.288, 3, 13 in 18 games), C Gary Sanchez (.232, 34, 77 in 106 games), DH Edwin Encarnacion (.244, 34, 86 in 109 games for Mariners and Yankees), SS Didi Gregorius (.238, 16, 61 in 82 games), 2B Gleyber Torres (.278, 38, 30), 3B Gio Urshela (.314, 21, 74 in 132 games).

Starting Pitchers

Twins: RH Jose Berrios (14-8, 3.68 ERA, 195 Ks in 200 1/3 IP), RH Jake Odorizzi (15-7, 3.51, 178 Ks, 159 IP).

Yankees: RH Masahiro Tanaka (11-9, 4.45), LH James Paxton (15-6, 3.82), RH Luis Severino (1-1, 17 Ks, 12 IP in 3 starts), RH Chad Green (4-4, 4.17, 98 Ks in 69 innings overall; 0-1, 3.72, 32 Ks in 19 1/3 IP as an opener).

Relievers

Twins: LH Taylor Rogers (2-4, 2.61 ERA, 30/36 saves), RH Koenig (69 in 69 IP), RH Sergio Romo (0-1, 3.18, 3/5 saves in 27 games with Twins); 2-0, 3.58, 17/18 saves in 38 games with Marlins), RH Tyler Duffey (5-1, 2.50, 82 Ks in 57 2/3 IP), RH Trevor May (5-3, 2.94, 184 batting average against), RH Zack Littell (6-0, 2.68 in 37 IP), RH Brusdar Graterol (1-1, 4.66 in 9 1/3 IP), RH Cody Stashak (0-1, 3.24, 5 starts), RH Kyle Gibson (1-2, 1.55 in 9 games, 25 starts), LH Martin Dabnik (13-7, 4.84 in 160 IP, 29 starts), LH Martin Perez (10-7, 5.12 in 165 1/3 IP, 29 starts).

Yankees: LH Andrew Chapman (2-2, 2.21, 37/42 saves, 182 BA against, 85 Ks in 57 IP), LH Zack Britton (3-1, 1.91, 3 saves, 79 BA against), RH Adam Ottavino (6-5, 1.90, 2 saves, 195 BA against, 88 Ks in 66 2/3 IP), RHP Tommy Kahnle (3-2, 3.67, .199 BA against, 88 Ks in 61 1/3 IP), LH CC Sabathia (4-8, 4.95 in 22 starts and 1 relief appearance), LH J.A. Happ (12-8, 4.91 in 30 starts and 1 relief appearance).

Big Picture

Twins: Went 101-61 to win AL Central for first time since 2010, while Target Field opened. So this marks only second time in 10 seasons ballpark will host playoff baseball... Baldelli, his staff and many of the players have little or no experience with New York's one-sided domination of Twins this century, especially in postseason. Twins had a best-in-majors 55-26 record on road this season, and their 939 runs were second only to Yankees (943). Cruz provided big boost in clubhouse with leadership and experience, not to mention heart of batting order with 40-homer season at age 39, and there's probably no tougher out in the lineup right now... Twins didn't rely only on the long ball to score. They were second in majors in hits, and fourth in doubles. Without injured center fielder Byron Buxton, though, this is not a speedy team. The defense, minus Buxton, is a potential concern. Twins need to find for most errors (111) in majors. One way they covered up some deficiencies was by shifting on 35.6% of plate appearances, seventh-most in majors... Duffey had a 25-game scoreless streak from July 28 to Sept. 22. Rogers thrived in first year as closer, posting 8.18 strikeout-to-walk ratio. Romo's acquisition at trade deadline was important, giving Twins another player besides Cruz with World Series experience.

Matchups

Sixth playoff meeting between teams and Yankees have advanced each time with 3-1 ALDS sweeps in 2003 and 2004, 3-0 ALDS sweeps in 2009 and 2010, and 8-4 victory in 2017 wild-card game after falling behind 3-0... Since 2002, including the 13-2 postseason record, Yankees are 100-37 against Twins... Yankees took two of three from Minnesota at home in May and two of three at Target Field in July series that included 20 home runs — 12 by New York. In that series, Yankees outscored Twins just 30-27 but had 48 hits, including 44 for extra bases. The win by New York on July 23, a 14-12 decision in 10 innings, was just the second major league game in last 40 years with blown leads in top of the eighth, bottom of the eighth, top of the ninth and bottom of the ninth... Polanco, Rosario and Kepler were only Twins starters in lineup for 2017 wild-card game expected to factor in this series... Minnesota rookie skipper Rocco Baldelli will be managing his first postseason game, after replacing 2017 Manager of the Year Paul Molitor following last season... Cave and Littell are former Yankees farmhands. Cave arrived in 2018 trade for minor leaguer Luis Gil, and Littell was acquired in 2017 deal for pitcher Jaime Garcia... Minnesota set a mark for most regular season wins (307) and one more than Yankees and both well above previous mark of 267 established by New York last year. Twins had six players with 25 or more home runs. Yankees had five. Minnesota had 11 in double digits. Yankees a record 14... Minnesota has lost seven straight postseason rounds since beating Oakland in 2002 Division Series... Several Yankees are slumping, creating uncertain roster and lineup decisions for manager Aaron Boone. 1B Luke Voit struggled in return from sports hernia, ending season 0-12 for 1 and 1-for-3. Gregorius hit .163 with 3 homers and 17 RBIs from Aug. 24 on. Urshela finished in 3-for-28 slide and sprained left ankle in regular-season finale... New York's pitching was weakened when Reliever Dellin Betances tore Achilles tendon in first appearance back from lat injury that had sidelined him since spring training, and 18-game winner Domingo German was placed on administrative leave under baseball's domestic violence policy... Chapman had 0.59 ERA from Aug. 3 through end of season, allowing one run in 16 appearances... Yankees had baseball's second-highest payroll, at \$225 million as of Aug. 31. Twins were 18th at \$125 million.



Minnesota Twins

at New York Yankees

AFN-Sports2

1 a.m. Saturday CET

8 a.m. Saturday JKT



MLB PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

Playoffs

x-if necessary

OLD TIED

Tuesday: Washington 4, Milwaukee 3

Wednesday: Tampa Bay 5, Oakland 1

(Best-of-five)

American League

Home team wins

Friday: Tampa Bay (Glasgow 6-1) at

Houston (Verlander 6-1)

Saturday JKT

Saturday: Tampa Bay (Snel 6-8) at

Houston (Dugan 6-1) —

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. Saturday CET; 3 a.m.

a.m. Sunday JKT

Sunday: Houston (Greinke 8-1) at

Tampa Bay (Morton 16-6, 1.0)

x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: at Tampa Bay

x-Thursday, Oct. 10: at New York

N.Y. Yankees vs. Minnesota

Friday: Minnesota (TBD) at N.Y. Yan-

kees (TBD)

AFN-Sports2, 1 a.m. Saturday CET; 8

a.m. Saturday JKT

Sunday: Minnesota (TBD) at N.Y.

Yankees (TBD)

AFN-Sports, 11 p.m. Saturday CET; 6

a.m. Sunday JKT

Monday: N.Y. Yankees (TBD) at Min-

nesota (TBD)

x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: at Minnesota

x-Thursday, Oct. 10: at N.Y. Yankees

National League

LA, Dodgers vs. Washington

Thursday: at L.A. Dodgers

Friday: Washington (TBD) at L.A.

Dodgers (TBD)

AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m. Saturday CET;

10:30 p.m. Saturday JKT

Sunday: L.A. Dodgers (TBD) at Wash-

ington (TBD)

x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: at Washington

x-Wednesday, Oct. 9: at L.A. Dodgers

Atlanta vs. St. Louis

Thursday: at St. Louis

Friday: St. Louis (Flaherty 11-8) at At-

lanta (Foltynewicz 8-6)

AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m. Friday CET; 3:30

a.m. Saturday JKT

Sunday: Atlanta (Soroka 13-4) at St.

Louis (Holliday 10-1)

x-Monday: at St. Louis

x-Wednesday, Oct. 9: at Atlanta

Wednesday

Rays 5, Athletics 1

Tampa Bay ab h bi Semien ss ab r h b

Diaz 1b 2 3 2 Semien ss 5 1 1 0

Windle pr-3b 0 0 0 0 Laureano ss 3 0 1 1

Rush 2b 2 2 2 2 Semien ss 5 1 1 0

Meadows lf 3 0 0 0 Olson 1b 3 0 0 0

d'Arnaud c 4 0 0 0 Canha cf 3 0 0 0

Duffy lf 2 2 2 2 Semien ss 5 1 1 0

Love ph 3 0 0 0 Davis dh 4 0 0 0

Garcia rf 1 1 1 2 Grossman lf 0 0 0 0

Anderson ss 2 2 2 2 Semien ss 5 1 1 0

Kiermaier cf 4 0 0 0 Brown ph 1 0 0 0

Brooseu 2b-3b 2 0 0 0 Phegley c 2 0 0 0

Chu 1b-3b 1 0 0 0

Totals 34 5 9 5 Totals 33 1 1 1

Tampa Bay ab h bi Semien ss ab r h b

Guth 1b 1 1 1 1 Olson 1b 3 0 0 0

E-Brosseau (L) — DP-Tampa Bay 2

Oakland ab h bi Semien ss ab r h b

Rush 2b 2 2 2 2 Laureano ss 3 0 1 1

Rush, Diaz 2 (2) Garcia (1) Cham (1)

SP-Pham (1), SF-Laureano (1)

IP H R ER BB SO

Tampa Bay Morton W-0 5 1 0 3 4

Castillo 2 2 0 0 3

Anderson 1 1 0 0 0

Rush 2 0 0 0 1

Oakland Manaea L-0 2 4 4 4 5

Ploof 2 4 4 4 5

Diekman 3 1 0 0 0

Luzardo 3 1 0 0 2

Henderson 1 0 0 0 0

Manaea pitched to 1 batter in the 3rd

T-3:18. A—54,005 (46,765).

AL wild-card results

(Home team in CAPS)

2019 — Tampa Bay 5, OAKLAND 1

2016 — NEW YORK 7, OAKLAND 2

2015 — BOSTON 4, OAKLAND 3

2014 — TORONTO 5, Baltimore 2 (11)

2013 — Houston 3, NEW YORK 0

2012 — Boston 5, OAKLAND 8 (12)

2011 — Tampa Bay 4, CLEVELAND 1

2010 — Baltimore 5, T-3

Calendar

Oct. 3 — Division Series start.

Oct. 11 — League Championship Series starts.

Oct. 22 — World Series starts.

October TBA — Trading resumes, day after World Series.

Nov. 1 — Deadline for teams to make qualifying offers to their eligible former players who became free agents after the 2018 season.

November TBA — Deadline for free agents to accept qualifying offers, 15th day after the 2018 season.

Nov. 11 — General managers' Day.

Nov. 11 — Rookies of the Year announced.

Nov. 12 — Managers of the Year announced.

Nov. 13 — Cy Young Awards announced.

Nov. 14 — Most Valuable Player awards announced.

Nov. 21 — Owners meetings, Arlington, Texas.

Dec. 2 — Last day for teams to offer 2020 contracts to unsigned players on their 40-man rosters.

The Rays were unfazed by a

towel-swinging Oakland crowd of

\$4,005 that established a wild-card record, having recently

played at Dodger Stadium and on

the road against the Yankees and

Red Sox in the season's final two

weeks.

Tampa Bay players raced out of

their dugout to celebrate when

Marcus Semien struck out to end

it, and then started putting on

fresh playoff T-shirts and caps.

"It's a beautiful thing having

the lowest payroll in baseball and

having the success we did," cen-

turer Kevin Kiermaier said

before the game. "It always feel

good to stick it to the man any

time you're able to do in this game,

and that's something to be very

proud of."

The A's have lost nine straight

winner-take-all games since

2000, going 1-15 with a chance

to advance to the next postsea-

son round. Their only win was

in 2006 against the Twins before

being swept in the AL Champion-

ship Series by the Tigers.

A year ago in the wild-card

game, Oakland's first time back

in the playoffs since 2014, the A's

fell behind fast and lost 7-2 at Yan-

kee Stadium. They won 97 games

again to earn a wild card.

This game had a far different

feel in the familiar, friendly con-

fines of the Coliseum, but the A's

dug themselves another quick

hole.

And the visitors were the ones

putting on a happy home run

show this time. Oakland, which

hit a franchise-record 257 homers,

is 0-6 in winner-take-all play-

off games at home since 2000.

Never one to shy from the un-

orthodox — the Rays used four

pitchers against Matt Olson —

Cash started Diaz at first to make

sure his best bat against lefties

was in the lineup.

"I just was trying to get good

pitches to hit and luckily they

went out," Diaz said through a translator.

Morton, with a career-high 16

wins and his best ERA yet of 3.05

this season, counted on his playoff

experience giving him an edge.

He won Game 7 of the World Se-

ries for the Astros in 2017.

Morton gave up five hits with-

out an earned run over five in-

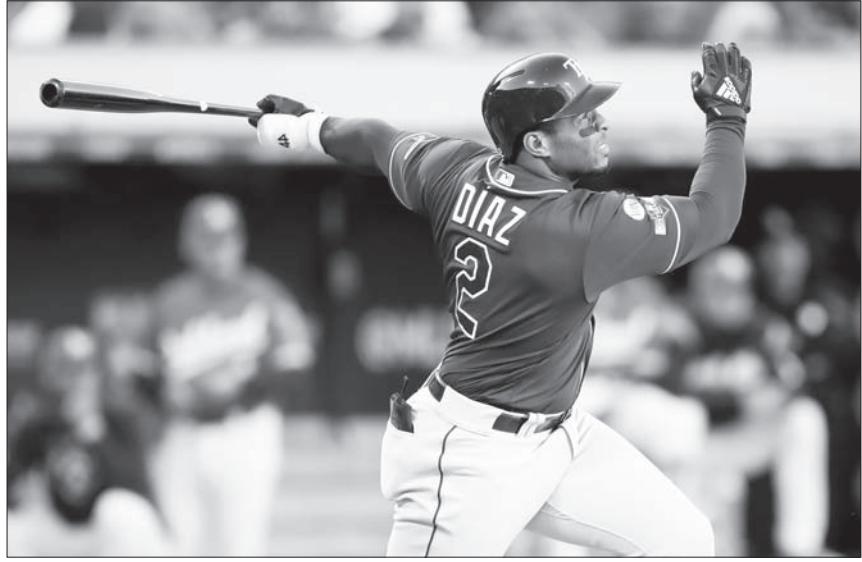
nings. He struck out four and

walked three in his seventh play-

off start and eighth appearance,

having spent the last two seasons

with Houston.



BEN MARGOT/AP

The Tampa Bay Rays' Yandy Diaz watches his solo home run against the Oakland Athletics during the third inning of Wednesday's American League wild-card game in Oakland, Calif. It was Diaz's second home run of the game. He also led off the game with a home run.

Rays use homers to top A's

Tampa's Morton gets run support while silencing Oakland

BY JANIE McCUALEY
Associated Press



JEFF CHIU/AP

Rays starter Charlie Morton scattered five hits without an earned run over five innings. He struck out four and walked three.

towel-swinging Oakland crowd of \$4,005 that established a wild-card record, having recently played at Dodger Stadium and on the road against the Yankees and Red Sox in the season's final two weeks.

Tampa Bay players raced out of their dugout to celebrate when Marcus Semien struck out to end it, and then started putting on fresh playoff T-shirts and caps.

"It's a beautiful thing having the lowest payroll in baseball and having the success we did," cen-

ter fielder Kevin Kiermaier said before the game. "It always feel good to stick it to the man any time you're able to do in this game, and that's something to be very proud of."

The A's have lost nine straight winner-take-all games since 2000, going 1-15 with a chance to advance to the next postseason round. Their only win was in 2006 against the Twins before being swept in the AL Championship Series by the Tigers.

A year ago in the wild-card

MLB PLAYOFFS

16 possibilities

Checking out the probability of all World Series matchups

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

There will be a new World Series champion this year, because the Boston Red Sox didn't make the postseason.

In fact, only one champ from the past seven years — Houston — is in the remaining playoff field. The Dodgers, Yankees and Nationals have certainly fielded good teams in recent years, only to fall short one way or another. Now they have another chance.

With the wild-card games out of the way, there are 16 possible World Series matchups left. Here's a list of them all — and what could make each of them interesting. The matchups are listed in descending order of likelihood, using probability figures from Fangraphs.com heading into Thursday's action.

Astros-Dodgers (15.9%): A rematch of the 2017 World Series. This would be the first time the same teams met in the World Series twice in a three-year span since the Yankees played the Dodgers in 1977 and 1978.

Astros-Nationals (12.1%): Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer know each other well from their postseason runs with Detroit. Scherzer has won two Cy Young Awards with Washington since leaving the Tigers, but Verlander won a title in 2017 with Houston.

Yankees-Dodgers (9.8%): This rivalry has lost some of its luster since the teams haven't met in the World Series since 1981. Because of playoff expansion, the Yankees

and Dodgers have more postseason hurdles to clear now than in the 1950s, so if they do reach the ultimate stage at the same time, it would be pretty special.

Astros-Braves (8.3%): When these teams were both in the National League, Houston once eliminated Atlanta on an 18th-inning home run. That was en route to the Astros' first World Series appearance in 2005.

Yankees-Nationals (7.5%): A matchup of contrasts, Washington would lean on its rotation trio of Scherzer, Stephen Strasburg and Patrick Corbin, while New York would figure to have a massive advantage in the bullpen.

Rays-Dodgers (6.9%): Andrew Friedman, president of baseball operations for the Dodgers, was previously a successful executive for Tampa Bay. This would be another interesting contrast — between the big-market Dodgers and the low-budget Rays — but these have both become model organizations in their own way.

Astros-Cardinals (6.2%): Yes, this series would have obvious intrigue after the Cardinals were punished in 2017 for hacking the Astros' email system and scouting database. St. Louis had to give Houston the 56th pick in that year's draft, which the Astros used to take right-hander Corbin Martin. This year, Martin was part of the package Houston traded for Zack Greinke.

Rays-Nationals (5.2%): These are the only two franchises left in this postseason that have never won a World Series. The Nationals have never even won a pennant, in Washington or Montreal.

Yankees-Braves (5.2%): This would be



WALLY SKALI, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

The Houston Astros' George Springer hits a two-run home run against Dodgers pitcher Yu Darvish, right, during Game 7 of the 2017 World Series in Los Angeles. The Astros and Dodgers are the favorites to meet in this year's World Series.

a throwback to the latter half of the 1990s, when the Yankees beat Atlanta twice in the World Series. New York won the last four games in 1996 and all four in 1999.

Twins-Dodgers (4.7%): Minnesota and

Los Angeles played a seven-game classic in 1965. Sandy Koufax shut out the Twins 2-0 in the final to win the title.

Yankees-Cardinals (3.8%): The Cardinals have held their own against New York historically, winning three of their five World Series matchups with the Yankees. The 1926 edition ended with Babe Ruth being caught trying to steal second. It's hard to imagine Aaron Judge attempting something similar.

Rays-Braves (3.6%): Matt Joyce spent six seasons with Tampa Bay and played in the postseason in 2010, 2011 and 2013. He's with Atlanta now and at age 35, he hit nearly .300 for the Braves while receiving increased at-bats over the past couple of months.

Twins-Nationals (3.6%): Washington's current team vs. one of its previous editions. Both have had a hard time getting past the Division Series of late.

Rays-Cardinals (2.7%): Tommy Pham was traded from St. Louis to Tampa Bay in 2018, and he's been a contributor for the Rays. The outfielder hit .273 with 21 home runs this season.

Twins-Braves (2.5%): The 1991 World Series between Minnesota and Atlanta was one of the most exciting ever, with Jack Morris winning a 10-inning Game 7 for the Twins. Minnesota has not been to the World Series since, while the Braves won four more pennants and a title during the 1990s.

Twins-Cardinals (1.8%): The home team won every game when Minnesota and St. Louis met in the 1987 World Series, but the Cardinals wouldn't have to contend with the Metrodome this time. The Twins hit a record 307 home runs this year. St. Louis hit 210, the fewest of any team in the postseason.



ANTHONY SOUFFLE, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/TNS

Twins catcher Mitch Garver, left, watches as Atlanta Braves second baseman Ozzie Albies crosses home plate after hitting a solo home run during the first inning on Aug. 7 in Minneapolis. The teams have a 2.5% chance of meeting again in the World Series.

NFL

Allen looks to get a handle on his fumbling

Panthers QB has chance to win his 4th straight start

BY STEVE REED
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kyle Allen is winning games for the Carolina Panthers.

The second-year quarterback realizes for that trend to continue he must do a better job of protecting the football.

Allen is 2-0 as a starter since replacing the injured Cam Newton, but his fumbling issues are concerning. He has fumbled five times in the last two games, turning it over four times. Yet the Panthers (2-2) have managed to beat Arizona and Houston on the road despite those potential costly miscues.

But Allen knows that's not a sustainable winning formula in the NFL.

"For me it's unacceptable, and I can't put the team in a position like that if we want to win games," said Allen, who has fumbled on the opening drive of both starts this season. "So I take that as an issue and I'm working to get better."

While Allen said ball security has been an emphasis with the coaching staff this week in practice, he refused to get into too many specifics about what exactly he's doing to correct the issue.

But he did say stepping up in the pocket and doing a better job of sensing pressure is one of the things he can do to help himself.

After his third fumble against Houston last week, Allen seemed to figure things out when he ducked under defensive end JJ Watt late in the game and completed a critical third-down pass to Jarius Wright to move the chains and help the Panthers hold off the Texans 16-10.

"Sometimes I'm too deep in the



MICHAEL WYKE / AP

Carolina Panthers quarterback Kyle Allen (7) fumbles as he is hit by Houston Texans linebacker Whitney Mercilus on Sunday in Houston. Allen has four fumbles lost this season, including two on opening drives.

pocket and sometimes it's rolling out left or right," Allen said. "It's a combination of things."

"He's aware of it," coach Ron Rivera said of the issue. "It's a couple of things that happen in the game that you have to give credit to the guy rushing him as well. JJ Watt is a pretty spectacular guy who made a pretty doggone big-time play."

Despite the fumbles, Allen has quickly won fans over in the Carolinas because he's done what Newton hasn't — win.

Newton is 0-8 in his last eight starts; Allen is 3-0 in his last three.

The season looked dire after the Panthers started the season with back-to-back losses at home and Newton was ruled out with a foot injury prior to the Week 3 game at Arizona. But the Panthers rallied behind Allen's four-touchdown performance and the versatile play of Christian McCaffrey to beat the Cardinals 38-20 and salvage a floundering start.

Newton said Friday night on a video blog that he needs to "take time away" from the game to allowing his mid-foot sprain to heal because it has prevented him from playing at a high level.

Rivera has said when Newton is

healthy, he will start.

Allen doesn't know when that will be. He will look to become the first NFL quarterback since Kurt Warner to win his first four NFL starts — he also won in Week 17 last year — when the Panthers host rookie quarterback Gardner Minshew and the Jaguars (2-2) on Sunday in a battle between two 1995 NFL expansion teams.

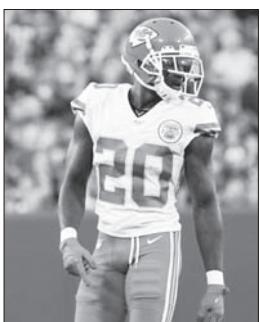
Allen will be without one of his options in the passing game, as the Panthers on Wednesday placed wide receiver Chris Hogan on injured reserve with a left knee injury and claimed offensive lineman Caleb Benenoch from New

England off waivers. Hogan had three receptions for 24 yards.

"Chris will undergo an arthroscopic procedure and will be placed on injured reserve," general manager Marty Hurney said. "He will be a candidate to return later this season under the same rule."

The 6-foot-3, 210-pound Allen said despite his recent success, he still doesn't get recognized by Panthers fans when he's out and about in downtown Charlotte.

"No, I'm pretty unnoticeable. I look like a lot like the rest of the people in this (media interview) room," Allen said with a laugh.



MORRY GASH/AP

Defensive back Morris Claiborne is back with the Chiefs after serving a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy.

Return of Claiborne, Hill, Williams boosts Chiefs

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Defensive back Morris Claiborne returned to the practice field with the Kansas City Chiefs on Wednesday after serving his four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy.

He wasn't alone.

The Chiefs also welcomed back wide receiver Tyreek Hill, who has been sidelined since Week 1 with a collarbone injury, and running back Damien Williams, who has been nursing an ankle injury.

It's unclear how much they'll play when the Chiefs visit Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday.

Claiborne, a former sixth overall pick of the Dallas Cowboys, missed most of training camp before the Chiefs signed him to what amounted to a prove-it contract. He played part of the preseason, but he was barred from practice and games until ear-

lier this week.

"It's going to be fun. I think he has a lot to bring to this team," Chiefs cornerback Bashaud Breeland said. "We're all excited to get him out there with us."

The 4-0 Chiefs have been better against the pass this season under new defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, but they still rank 20th in the league against the pass. Claiborne should provide veteran help right away and could push for a starting job as the season progresses.

He's coming off the best two-year stretch of his career with the New York Jets.

"We'll see how he does out here," said Chiefs coach Andy Reid, who was unwilling Wednesday to make any changes to his lineup. "We'll get him back in and see how he rolls."

Reid is also taking a wait-and-see approach to his offensive playmakers.

Hill was hurt in the opener in Jacksonville when his shoulder was driven into the ground on a play along the sideline. He

wound up spending the night in the hospital, where his collarbone was stabilized without surgery.

The two-time All-Pro was seen catching passes from Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes during warmups last week in Detroit, the first sign that Hill could soon be back on the field.

"He's hard to hold down. He's wired different," Reid said. "He's bouncing around and wants to go, but this one here, the doctors really have to keep checking on him. We'll see how the time goes."

Williams has struggled with an ankle injury most of the season, continuing a career-long trend of nagging injuries. In the meantime, LeSean McCoy has taken over the No. 1 job in the Kansas City backfield, and Darrel Williams has proven a capable backup.

McCoy ran for 56 yards and a score against the Lions. Darrel Williams had two TD runs.

NFL

Steelers give Ravens taste of real rivalry

BY TODD KARPOVICH
Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Baltimore coach John Harbaugh shared a message that was passed along to young Ravens about the rival Pittsburgh Steelers.

"One of the things that was said in the meetings today was that you're not a Raven until you beat the Steelers," Harbaugh said. "We have some young guys that still need to beat the Steelers."

Baltimore's rookies will get their chance on Sunday when the Ravens and Steelers renew their rivalry. There will be a lot of new faces, especially for the Steelers, who are missing injured quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

"No matter who is playing," Ravens left tackle Ronnie Stanley said, "this rivalry is going to be one of the biggest rivalries in all of sports."

Baltimore (2-2) is mired in a two-game skid and its vaunted defense has allowed more than 500 yards in each of those setbacks. The secondary has been burned for several big plays of 50 yards or more.

The Ravens defense should get a boost with the return of defensive tackle Brandon Williams, who missed the previous game against Cleveland with a knee injury. Harbaugh anticipates the entire defense playing better.

"We expect to be at the top of the heap in the defensive world," Harbaugh said. "We'll do everything we can to get back there. I think the world champs (Patriots) did it last year. That's our ambition. That's our goal."

The Steelers (1-3) opened the season with three consecutive losses before dominating the Cincinnati Bengals 27-3 in Week 4.

Pittsburgh quarterback Mason Rudolph has replaced the injured Roethlisberger and has thrown for 515 yards, six touchdowns and

two interceptions. The Ravens, ranked 23rd in the league with eight sacks, will try to pressure Rudolph into making mistakes.

"It's the same offense," Harbaugh said. "The Steelers have a big playbook, so they have a lot of different directions they can go. They're going to come up with ideas to do whatever they need to do to move the ball, to try and score points, to try and win a game. (Rudolph) is a young quarterback. He has a lot of talent."

While Baltimore's defense has struggled, its running attack has been stellar — ranking first in the NFL averaging 205.8 yards per game.

Mark Ingram, who was signed as a free agent from New Orleans this offseason, leads the Ravens with 328 yards on 55 carries with five touchdowns. Quarterback Lamar Jackson has also been solid scrambling out of the pocket and has 238 yards on 36 carries with a touchdown. Baltimore's two other running backs — second-year player Gus Edwards and rookie Justice Hill — are capable of making plays.

Jackson will be making his first start in Pittsburgh. Last season, he was the backup behind Joe Flacco in a 26-14 victory at Heinz Field and a 23-16 setback in Baltimore.

He is looking forward to the atmosphere highlighted by the Steelers fans waving their gold "Terrible Towels" and the team's theme song "Renegade" by the band Styx blaring over the speakers.

The Ravens players and coaches expect a typical hard-fought matchup in the 51st all-time meeting between the teams, including four games in the playoffs.

The Steelers lead the series 28-22.

"There was a time when they were saying it wasn't a rivalry, if I recall," Harbaugh said. "I think



GAIL BURTON/AP

Baltimore Ravens tight end Mark Andrews, right, celebrates his touchdown catch from a pass from quarterback Lamar Jackson, not visible, with inside linebacker Patrick Onwuasor during the Ravens' win over Cleveland on Sunday in Baltimore. None of the three has started for the Ravens when they've beaten the rival Pittsburgh Steelers.

'One of the things that was said in the meetings today was that you're not a Raven until you beat the Steelers. We have some young guys that still need to beat the Steelers.'

John Harbaugh
Ravens coach

a parking lot after a game.

Linebacker Pernell McPhee was part of those games when he played for the Ravens from 2011-2014. McPhee left Baltimore to sign with the Bears and had a stint in Washington before resigning with the Ravens in the offseason.

McPhee views the rivalry much differently than some of the younger players.

"We hate each other," Pernell McPhee said. "I know for sure we hate them. We respect them as men. That's just how it is. That's the blood between the teams. It's like, I guess, God versus the devil. Me, personally, I don't care too much for them."

It's a rivalry. I've always felt that way. I have the utmost respect for them. This is an important game and we're looking forward to playing them."

While there appears to be mu-

tual respect among the Ravens and Steelers, their rivalry has a history of hard hits, unsportsmanlike conduct penalties and even a confrontation between Ray Lewis and Joey Porter that spilled onto



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

With Mitchell Trubisky injured, Chicago Bears quarterback Chase Daniel will start Sunday against the Oakland Raiders in London.

Bears' Daniel, Smith to start vs. Raiders

BY GENE CHAMBERLAIN
Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — It came as no surprise when Chicago Bears coach Matt Nagy on Wednesday announced Chase Daniel will start at quarterback in place of injured Mitchell Trubisky in London against the Oakland Raiders.

The unexpected announcement actually came from Bears linebacker Roquan Smith when he said he plans to play against the Raiders on Sunday.

Smith missed the Bears' 16-6 victory over the Minnesota Vikings for what Nagy had termed a "personal issue," and on Monday his status had been uncertain.

"I will play this week," Smith said with resolve.

The eighth overall pick in the 2018 draft, Smith had 24 tackles in the first three games but was watching from the sideline against Minnesota with no explanation other than "personal issue" from Nagy or the Bears organization.

"Like coach said, it was a personal reason," Smith said. "That's behind us now. So (I'm) just focused on getting better this week and moving on to Oakland."

No further explanation was given by Smith or Nagy for the absence. Smith wouldn't answer if a legal issue was involved or even if it was an injury

of some sort. He said he knew fans and reporters would want to know why he missed the game, but asked they respect his privacy.

"I guess that's just life in general," Smith said. "People are always curious."

Smith went through a full practice but Nagy wasn't presumptive about Smith's availability.

"It's gonna be more of a day-to-day thing for us with him," Nagy said.

Nick Kwiatkoski started for Smith against Minnesota and made a team-high nine tackles, with a strip sack and two tackles for loss.

"That was big time," Smith said. "Guys definitely stepped up. Nick Kwiatkoski, (linebacker) Kevin (Pierre-Louis), so that's big. You know, when one brother is down, others just step up and do their jobs. That was huge."

Daniel makes his third start with the Bears due to the left shoulder injury suffered by Trubisky when he tried to scramble and was taken down by Minnesota's Danielle Hunter. The Bears hadn't officially said Trubisky would miss the game until Wednesday. Nagy said a date for Trubisky's return is uncertain at this point, calling him "day to day."

Daniel has been in the league since 2010 and it's his fifth overall start. Last week, Daniel went 22-for-30 with 195 yards and a touchdown in a win.

SPORTS



No love lost

New faces getting first taste of
Ravens-Steelers rivalry » Page 62

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Out of the trenches

Even in old-school SEC,
air-based offenses
reigning supremeBy PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

The Southeastern Conference built its reputation on punishing ground games with one-name tailback megastars like Herschel, Bo and Emmitt — all larger-than-life performers who pounded the rock, piled up

It runs counter-intuitive to what (SEC) coaches will tell you about wanting to be balanced. But things have changed. ’

Gary Danielson
CBS Sports analyst

These days, the SEC action is not in the trenches but on the outside — where lightning-quick wideouts catch passes from quarterbacks making split decisions on the fly, often from empty backfields.

“It runs counterintuitive to what (SEC) coaches will tell you about wanting to be balanced,” CBS Sports college football analyst Gary Danielson said. “But things have changed.”

SEE SUPREME ON PAGE 55

Inside:

- LB White emerging as leader on 'D' for Fighting Irish, Page 55

Diaz HRs help Rays to wild-card win over A's » Page 59

Clockwise from top:
SEC quarterbacks
Joe Burrow (LSU);
Tua Tagovailoa
(Alabama); and
Jake Fromm
(Georgia).

AP photos



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